



# THE INDEPENDENT



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**Suzanne Moore: Nobody likes a smart alec**

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

## I will not back down, vows Blair

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday there would be no retreat from his crusade to transform Britain and appealed for party support when his radical, but painful, reforms start to hurt.

Warning that 1998 would be a critical "year of challenge" for his Government, he told the Labour conference in Blackpool there would be "no backing down" from his tough decisions on inflation, interest rates and public spending.

"Backbone not backbone is what Britain needs," he said.

The Prime Minister suggested that no section of society would be immune from his modernisation plan. He demanded greater efficiency from the education, health and police services, but also had a stark message for Britain's businessmen: "Be honest: your fundamental problem is not high interest rates or a high pound. It is too few first-class managers. Too little investment. Too little productivity."

Mr Blair's uncompromising 50-minute speech, which was enthusiastically received by the conference, was aimed at carrying his party with him as he pushes through reforms.

However, he made clear he would press ahead without his party's support if necessary. He said the Government must "listen to criticism but not be paralysed by it", and march towards its destination "through the thicket of disillusion, the ambush of oppositionists for whom all change is betrayal and who long for our failure".

Labour would be attacked from both the left and right, but must "hold firm". He said: "Of course we'd rather be popular

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

than unpopular. But better to be unpopular than wrong."

He assured his party the reforms would be true to Labour's traditional values, saying it had won the battle of ideas and the "crude individualism" of the Thatcher era had been replaced by "community" as the spirit of the times. "It's up to me" was being replaced by "it's up to us".

He dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that his administration was "just a more moderate or

### KEY POINTS

- £400m National Lottery cash for education, environment and health
- Bad teachers and heads weeded out
- Rigorous inspection of hospitals and doctors
- Tougher regime for new benefit claimants
- Green Paper soon on strengthening family life

Conference reports, pages 6 and 7; Leading article, Review, page 3

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He struck a sceptical note about the introduction of proportional representation for House of Commons elections and assured his party: "The Government will decide its response in the interests of the country, not in the interests of the Liberal Democrats."

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Denying Paddy Ashdown's charge that he was a "control freak", Mr Blair confirmed he would give up the Prime Minister's traditional right to appoint peers.

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**Big rise in number of lone parents**

Britain has the highest proportion of one-parent families in Europe, with the numbers rising by more than 90 per cent since the 1980s. Page 9

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Hurricane Georges was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as the swirling winds that have been lashing the US Gulf coast dropped below 50mph. Page 14

**West Bank threat to Netanyahu**

The Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is calculating how to call the bluff of his coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory. Page 14

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The England Rugby Union coach, Clive Woodward, relied on the old guard when he announced the squad for the World Cup qualifiers. Page 22

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Manchester United are to use Belgian club Royal Antwerp to groom their future foreign stars and solve their work permit problems at the same time. Page 26

**WEDNESDAY REVIEW**

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'Like so many religious fanatics, the Millbank fundamentalists seem driven by an inability to construct proper human relationships, to find another outlet for their energies.' Page 3

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'Pretentiousness comes with the territory. It's a requirement of the job. An unpretentious wine connoisseur would be as much use as a surreptitious town crick.' Page 4

**Robert Fisk**

'Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be "incurable", that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?' Page 5

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997



Pupils at Cookridge Primary School raising the profile of their campaign to halt Leeds City Council's closure plans Peter Byrne/Guzelian

## Class sizes fall but many still exceed 30-pupil plan

By JUDITH JUDD

Education Editor

CLASS SIZES have been cut to 30 or under for 140,000 infants this term, a government survey showed yesterday. But 345,000, just over a fifth of five, six and seven-year-olds, are still in classes of 31 or more.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the figures showed the Government was on target to meet one of its key election pledges – the reduction of class sizes for all children aged seven and under by September 2001.

Conservatives immediately challenged ministers to prove that the reduction had not been achieved by increasing class sizes for older children or by restricting parental choice.

"These grants together with a further £360 million over the next three years for new teachers and extra classrooms will ensure that we meet our class sizes pledge ahead of schedule."

"Parents will welcome these improvements, which will mean smaller classes, more teachers, more classrooms and the safeguarding of parental choice."

Most infants, he said, would be in classes of 30 or fewer by September 2000 and the pledge would be met for all infants by September 2001.

David Willetts, the shadow secretary of state for education, said: "We have always said that if you pursue the objective or re-

duce infant classes, you can certainly deliver it but at what price? How many parents will be able to get their children into the school of their first choice because that would push class sizes above 30?"

He said the Government must also publish figures about unsuccessful parental appeals on admissions and on the effect on class sizes elsewhere in primary schools. Yesterday's figures are a projection based on returns from 88 per cent of all primary schools.

Estimates published yesterday do not show class sizes for primary school children aged over seven, which also rose last year.

At the beginning of the year, there were 832,700 seven to eleven-year-olds up by 53,100 on the year before.

Government sources insisted there was no evidence of an increase in class sizes for eight to eleven age group.

But Mr Willetts said: "Ministers must publish figures which show where schools are reducing infant classes at the expense of more mixed-age classes, and bigger classes in later years."

Visiting schools around the country, Mr Willetts said he saw examples of both consequences of the Government's single-minded drive to reduce infant classes.

## Big cheeses snatched from the jaws of victory

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE

IT IS admittedly terribly corny but irresistible – to report that Jamie Montgomery is thoroughly cheesed off.

This morning the Somerset farmer was awaking to the prospect of his third consecutive victory in the British cheese awards in London. But even if he does again win gold medal in the mature Cheddar

category, he knows he will not be able to cash in on the extra sales that would be created by again proving he is big cheese of the cheese world.

Under the cover of darkness, thieves have broken into Mr Montgomery's refrigerated stores at North Cadbury and

stolen 275 unpasteurised, muslin-covered truckles weighing about five tons in total and worth £30,000. He is not insured. Hard cheese, indeed.

Organisers of the British Cheese Awards have suggested the theft of the 500 truckles might have been carried out by jealous rivals. Juliet Hartbut, founder of the awards, said:

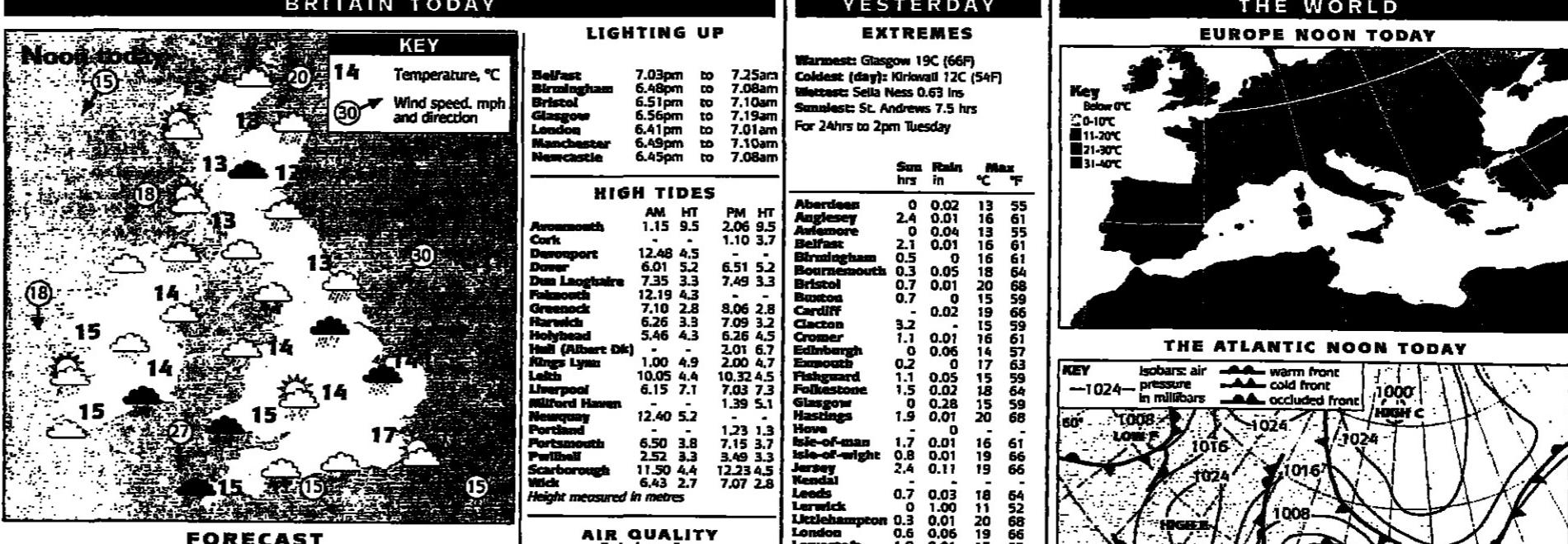
"You have to assume that it was someone from within the industry, otherwise how do you get rid of it? There is a strong possibility it is industrial espionage – of the highest order."

"The worst thing is that it might just get ground up and end up in someone's cheese and pickle sandwich. That would be terrible."

Mr Montgomery, whose 12-month-old Cheddar is made to a recipe perfected by his grandfather, is not convinced. "If there are people in the business who would do this I am very disappointed," he said. "It is possible, but it is not a thesis I support." But he admits the thieves must have contacts in the industry. "It's not the sort of

thing you can just get rid of, is it?" Mr Montgomery's cheese is produced from milk from his 140 Friesians. When not being stolen by cheese thieves it sells for £8-£9 a pound.

Not all the cheese was stolen. The samples for the awards were untouched and a third victory would provide some consolation at least.



General situation Heavy rain will move north across England and Wales. The east and south-west will brighten but stay showery. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a little sun then afternoon rain. North-west Scotland will stay dry later but the east will be dull, windy and chilly with drizzle then steady rain.

**Sunday & Monday** England, Wales, Scotland: Heavy rain clearing then brighter but showery. Moderate from fresh easterly to south-east winds, easing later.

Sea: N Sea 15-18C, E Anglia 15-18C, C England 15-18C, N England 15-18C, Scotland 15-18C, N Ireland 15-18C.

Wind: N 15-18C, S Wales 15-18C, E Wales 15-18C, N England 15-18C, Scotland 15-18C, N Ireland 15-18C.

Temperature: Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

Wind: N 15-18C, S Wales 15-18C, E Wales 15-18C, N England 15-18C, Scotland 15-18C, N Ireland 15-18C.

Sea: N Sea 15-18C, E Anglia 15-18C, C England 15-18C, N England 15-18C, Scotland 15-18C, N Ireland 15-18C.

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Children  
in fight  
for school  
win aid

THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 30 September 1998

HOME NEWS/3

# Never mind the clothes, see the show

BY TAMIN BLANCHARD  
Fashion Editor

INTRICATELY hand-carved wooden legs, improvised avant-garde choral works, models sprayed with paint by robotic arms, skirts made of wicker work or razor wire, revolving floors, drama, suspense, theatre.

No, we are not talking about the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical or Ridley Scott film. This is London Fashion Week and clothes alone are no longer enough.

British designers have a lot to live up to. The type they have generated over the past few seasons means their couture alone will no longer keep the world's media happy.

The point was proven again last night. Young gun Andrew Groves attracted attention by sending out a five pound note and a razor blade with much sought after invitations to his show.

Simon Costin, the show's art director who has previously worked with Alexander McQueen, built a 22-metre catwalk out of "white powder" for the occasion, making the catwalk itself an art installation.

To succeed in London, designers need to follow in the footsteps of Hussein Chalayan and Alexander McQueen, the kings of performance art.

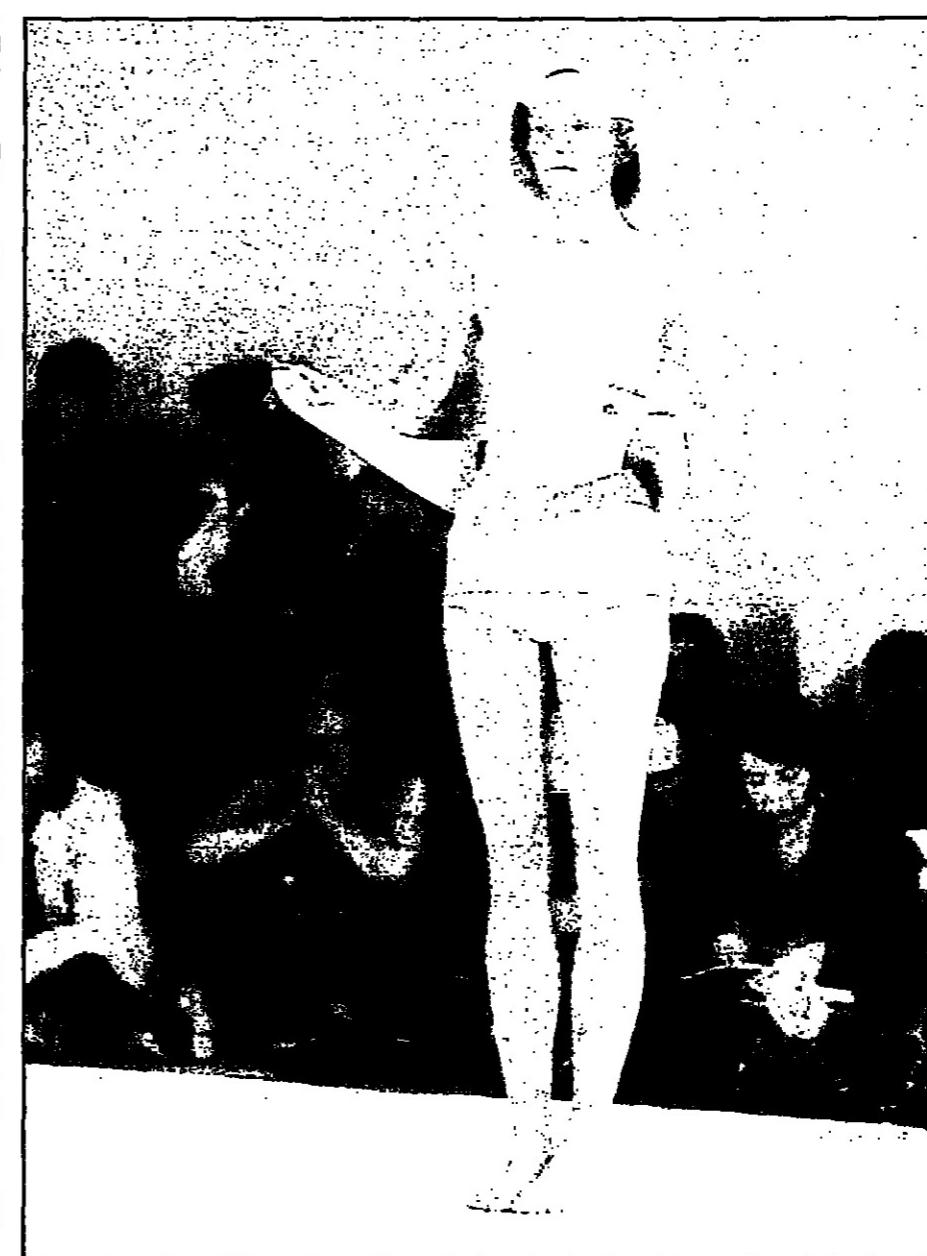
Both designers have broadened the idea of the catwalk show. For most designers, fashion week is about selling clothes. For Chalayan and McQueen, fashion is about theatre, atmosphere and peddling an image. Indeed, in some cases, the concept is more important than the clothes.

These are designers who have something more to say than "here's a pretty frock" - but their ideas have none the less made them the UK's most successful fashion exports.

Not only do their own collections make London Fashion Week unmissable for overseas press and buyers, McQueen also designs for the French house of Givenchy, while Chalayan's talents have won him the job at the American knitwear company TSE Cashmere.



The art of dressing, as seen in the work of Hussein Chalayan, left, and of Alexander McQueen for London Fashion Week



Ben Elmes

## London's dedicated leaders of fashion



McQueen: Misunderstood

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, 29, is from east London. He has been described as a "lout" as well as a genius and a visionary. He calls himself a "yob".

But this is all part of his hype machine. More precisely McQueen is a contradiction in terms. A genius fashion designer who hails from a working-class background, and tends toward the dramatic statement, while still creat-

ing clothes for strong women. At first no-one understood his collections. Given names like "Highland Rape" it was easy to see why.

In 1997 he began work as designer for Givenchy, for whom he designs four collections a year as well as his own London-based line.

Hussein Chalayan, 28, was brought up in north London, but his parents are Turkish Cypriot.

Cerebral, emotional and patriotic, Chalayan is informed by Middle Eastern culture, often using his clothes - which are regarded as avant-garde art pieces that retain their commercial edge - to question fashion and body politics by restricting, revealing or concealing the body.

He graduated from St Martin's in 1993 with a BA in Fashion Design, and gained notoriety with a graduation collection of dresses which he buried in his back garden with iron filings to create a rusted effect. Browns put these clothes in their covered window space.

Since then he has used unripened paper to make clothes (worn by Bjork on the cover of her album *Post*), used flight paths as surface decoration, and explored the nature of the Muslim Chador.



Chalayan: Worn by Bjork

BY MELANIE RICKETY

He also has the bravado to say what he thinks, but those beliefs tend to be misunderstood and reduced to sensationalism.

He graduated in 1992 from the MA course at Central St Martin's after training on Saville Row. He is a fantastic tailor, and tends toward the dramatic statement, while still creat-

ing clothes for strong women. At first no-one understood his collections. Given names like "Highland Rape" it was easy to see why.

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Chalayan: Worn by Bjork

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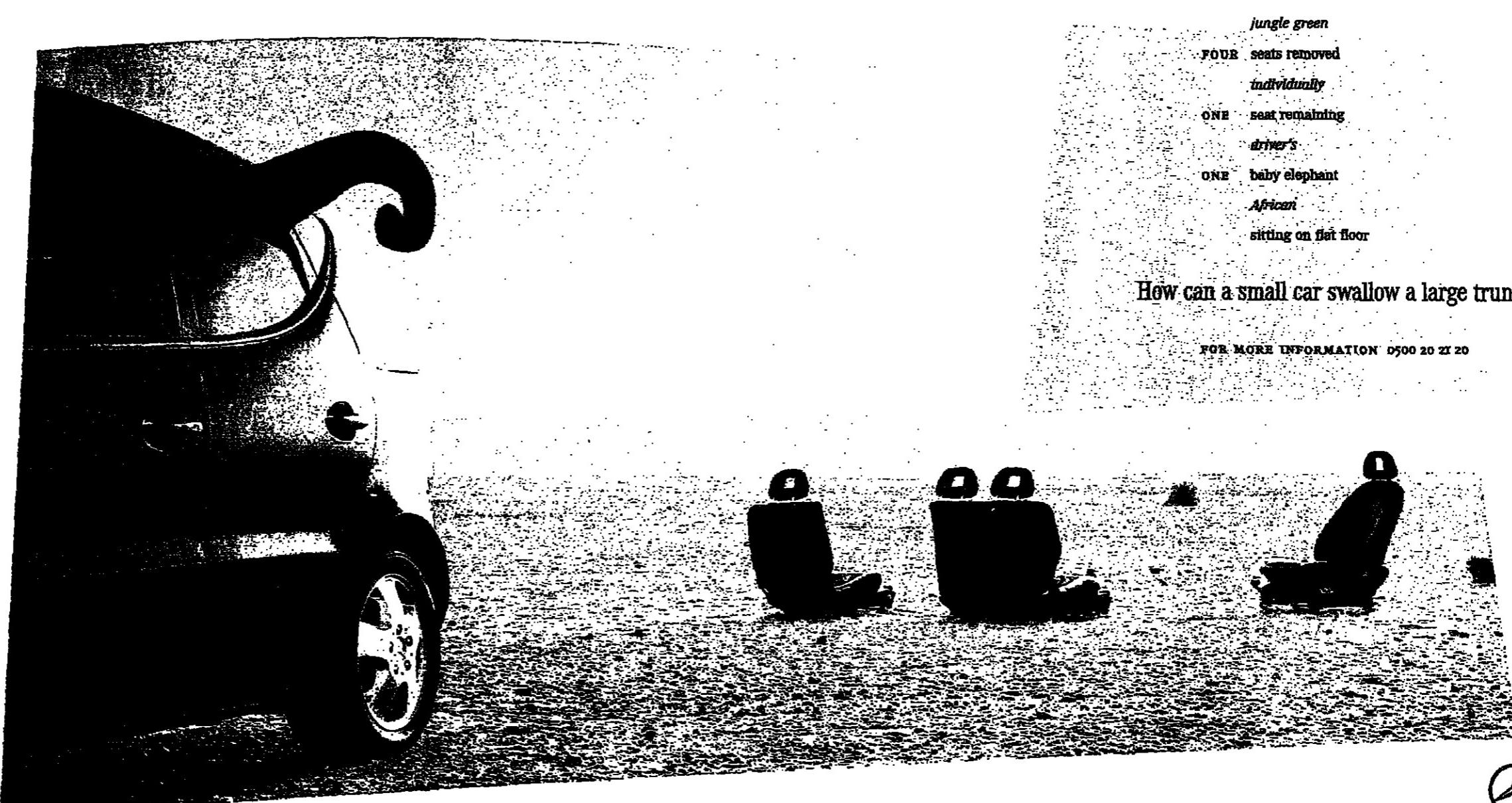
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## National parks plan for Scotland

LOCH LOMOND and the Cairngorm mountains should become Scotland's first national parks, the Government's nature advisers recommended yesterday.

Scotland is one of the few countries not to give its finest landscape top-tier protection, though a Scot, John Muir, helped to found the first national parks in the United States more than 100 years ago. Bitter divisions between landowners and conservationists and the demand for local jobs have frustrated attempts to implement Muir's vision in his native land.

Suspicious linger and yesterday's proposals published by Scottish National Heritage received only guarded welcomes by the pro and anti-park camps. A final decision will be left to the Scottish Parliament. So far only the Labour Party is committed to establishing national parks.

Magnus Magnusson, SNH

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

chairman, none the less said he believed Scotland would have parks covering Loch Lomond and the Trossachs by 2005. "I would be surprised if the parliament jibbed at creating the first two," he said.

The two proposed parks are different in character. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs is a mix of lochs, hills and woods, near to Glasgow and the urban belt. Visitors flock in for water sports, to climb and to walk. The "Bonnie, Bonnie Banks" alone get two million a year.

The Cairngorms range, great rolling hills over 3,000ft high with deep, ice-gouged valleys, is one of the wildest tracts of land in Britain and home to rare semi-arctic plants and birds. But though subject to a plethora of special protections, its glorious Caledonian pines have failed to regenerate because sporting estates have encouraged too many red deer and hill paths have been eroded by walkers' boots. There has also been a long-running battle over the ski area below Cairn Gorm.

The parks would not have such powerful planning powers as their counterparts in England and Wales. Parks should be a "contract" between national and local interests, the SNH said.

Brian Parnell, chairman of the Scottish Council for National Parks, said the proposals "lacked the boldness and decisiveness" campaigners had hoped for. "There is really no way a park can be effective unless it is the planning authority," he said.

The Scottish Landowners Federation said it was "encouraging" that landowners had been recognised as part of the management process.



The beauty of the Cairngorms would be protected by national park status under Scottish National Heritage's proposals Colin McPherson

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## First test for work hours ruling

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

that, under the institution's policy, staff who were not prepared to meet tough new targets needed to "review their future" with the organisation.

One member of his staff replied: "If I were to agree to achieve this increased target I would be agreeing to work an average 89 hours per week." One of the contentious issues is whether time spent driving to see clients constitutes working hours under the directive.

A spokesman for the institution said management was "not aware" that any of its employees was working more than 100 hours per week.

The spokesman said the organisation took the health and safety of its employees seriously and there were comprehensive programmes in place to deal with such issues.

A staff survey earlier this year had confirmed that employees were "happy".

The executive committee of the institution was confident that its employment practices met all its obligations under the European directive. Referring to its refusal to meet the union, the spokesman said that the "best and healthiest" relationship between BSI and its staff was a direct one with their line managers.

### IN BRIEF

#### Fatal fire blamed on boy arsonist

A BOY WITH a history of arson was probably responsible for a fire in which he died with his family, an inquest in Leicester was told yesterday. Malcolm Harcourt, six, died in his home with his mother, Teresa, 28, and sisters Kirsty, nine, Kelly, three, and Kimberley, two.

#### Police face inquiry over Menson

AN INQUIRY was under way yesterday into the way the Metropolitan Police investigated the death of a black musician, Michael Menson, 30, was found on fire near the North Circular road in London last year. Solicitors for his family have complained about how the case was handled.

#### House prices still slipping

HOUSE PRICES have fallen for a second month, said Nationwide building society. They are down by 0.2 per cent this month, though in August they fell by 0.5 per cent. Sales were likely to remain flat, Nationwide said.

#### Eyesight eases Kidman's nerves

ACTRESS Nicole Kidman has admitted poor eyesight helped her cope with first night nerves in her London stage show - because she could not see the audience. The Blue Room is so popular theatre-goers are prepared to stand to see it.

# Gulf ruler's aide on death charge

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

**THE CASE** opened yesterday against a British horseracing manager employed by the president of a Gulf state, who is charged with killing his girlfriend, a former beauty queen.

Duncan Alexander, who works for Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was charged after the naked body of Kerry Blackwell was found floating in a swimming pool at 3am last March.

Ms Blackwell, 30, a former Miss New Zealand finalist, worked as a bloodstock manager for Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, head of the royal family of Dubai and vice-president of the UAE.

Details of both the prosecution and defence cases were outlined yesterday before a court in Dubai, where Mr Alexander, 29, ran a racetrack and showjumping stadium in the desert.

It is understood that Ms Blackwell, 30, from Auckland, died after spending a night out with Mr Alexander and friends at the residential suburb of Jebel Ali, south-west of the city centre, last March. After meeting for drinks with friends, Mr Alexander and Miss Blackwell went on to a nightclub before deciding to go "skinny-dipping" in a shared pool at her villa.



The pool at the Jebel Ali complex where Ms Blackwell died

What happened next is not clear but Miss Blackwell was found floating in the pool; a nurse was called but it was too late to save her. The death certificate, sent to her parents in Auckland, said there was a large bruise on her forehead and that she died from a broken neck and the effects of shock. There were also bruises on her arms and legs.

Mr Alexander, who entered the UAE on a British passport and has dual British and Irish nationality, has told lawyers that his girlfriend of just two weeks must have died after diving into the pool, which at the shallow end is 2ft 6in deep. He was charged with her death two months later, after a post-mortem examination.

Mr Alexander, who has lived

drink, death and the links to the head and deputy head of state, has ensured the case has become a cause célèbre.

Mr Alexander, who has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, could face several years in a Dubai jail if he is found guilty.

Ms Blackwell's father, Maurice, general manager of an Auckland-based firm, has previously voiced doubts about his daughter's death.

"I was suspicious from the very beginning," he said. "Kerry had all her wits about her and I don't care how much alcohol she may have taken, I don't believe she would have made such a silly mistake as to dive head-first into a shallow pool."

But her mother, Dale Donkin, who is separated from Mr Blackwell, believes her daughter's death was an accident. "I feel terribly sorry for this young man under investigation," she said. "Kerry simply had a few drinks and made a fatal mistake about the depth of the pool. It was an accident. I am very angry that my daughter's death is being treated as something sinister when it was nothing of the kind."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was in close contact with Mr Alexander and his family. His parents run an antique business in Dublin.



Kerry Blackwell, who had been in the UAE for only three months when she died

## Prisons act to stop inmates forming paedophile rings

BY LUCIE MORRIS

**THE PRISON** Service has tightened its procedures to stop paedophiles helping each other to continue preying on children.

Research for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children shows paedophile networks are being allowed to form within prisons, where abusers are segregated from other inmates.

The Prison Service said it had taken comprehensive action after being alerted to the danger of children visiting sex offenders last May.

It will extend its use of Smart phone technology which will let prisoners dial only approved numbers.

"We only now allow visits [to paedophiles] from their own

children," Martin Narey, director of regimes, said. "We do not allow any other children to visit them. We routinely monitor correspondence and we only allow them to make calls to certain registered numbers."

He admitted, however, that in the past it could have been possible for children to have been brought in to visit paedophiles who were not their parents.

"As soon as we had any indication that this might be happening, we moved very quickly to prevent it happening in future," Mr Narey said.

In a preview of sections of the NSPCC report, *Grupping With Smoke*, to be released in November, the charity says 240

organised sex abuse rings may be under investigation at any one time.

The research, by Bernard Gallagher of Manchester University, an expert in organised sex abuse, highlights two cases where abusers in the community wrote to abusers in prison.

The report is intended to help social workers, police and others involved in dealing with organised sex crimes.

The contacts helped in the setting up of new rings and "promoted" existing ones, and thwarted police investigations through methods including the planned harassment of witnesses in impending trials.

The report is intended to help social workers, police and others involved in dealing with organised sex crimes.

## Hi-tech makes yo-yos return

BY CATHY COMERFORD

PARENTS ACROSS the country are celebrating a blast from the past which has managed the impossible - tempting children away from the computer and into the fresh air.

The yo-yo is back. Children are queuing up to get one and shops are struggling to meet the demand as manufacturers report a huge increase in sales.

New high tech yo-yos have made the Tamagotchi old hat. The 1990s versions carry a clutch mechanism that makes old tricks much easier to master.

A spokesman for manufacturers Bandai said a series of skills' tests or "trickology" had revived interest. The tests required tricks to be performed in front of an audience, and were marked.

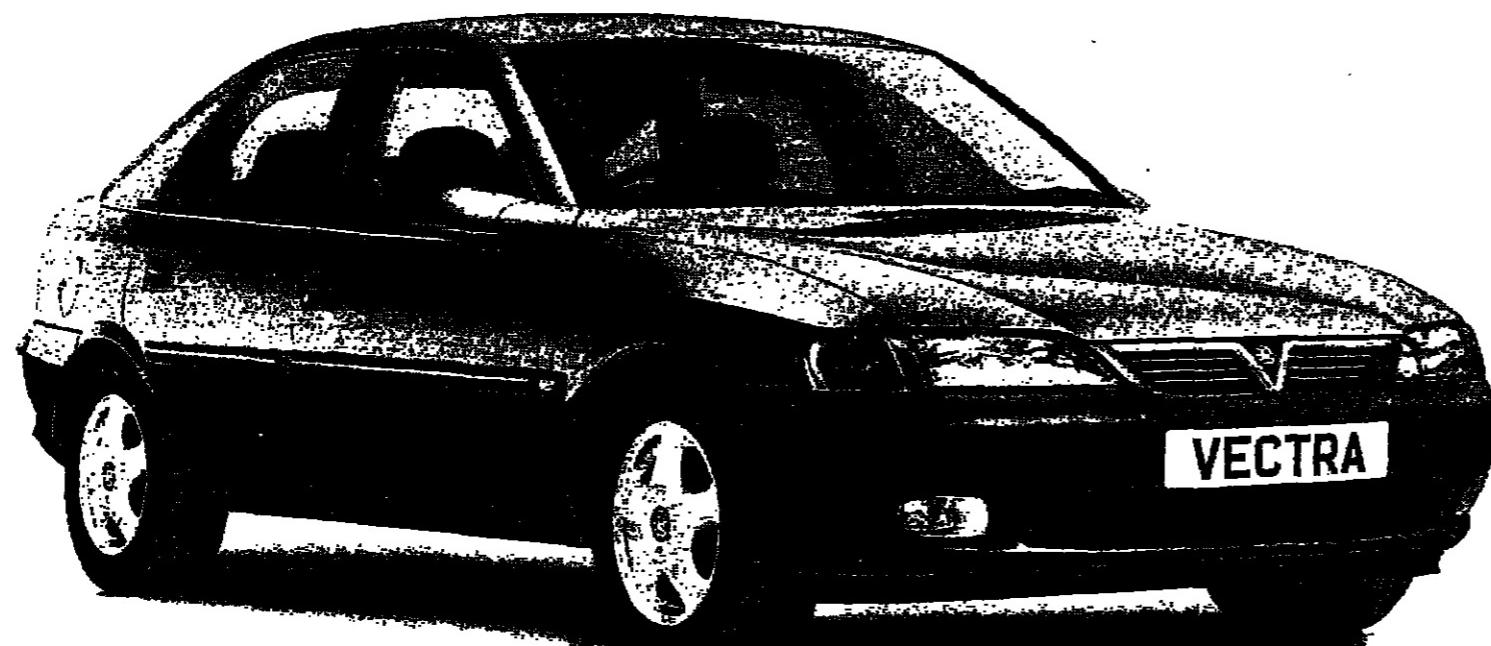
In Japan, where, according to Bandai, the latest yo-yo craze started, skilled users are performing in front of audiences of up to 40,000 children.

PMS International, which also manufactures yo-yos, reported an outstanding surge in sales. Last year the company sold only a few hundred while it expects sales to be more than half-a-million by the end of next month.

But as with all new fads some caveats apply. Today's yo-yos are not as cheap as they used to be, coming in at £7.99 for the Yomega X-Brain, which has a clutch system. And for the Metallic Missile, which is made-to-measure out of aluminium, you can expect to pay around £130.

Cost was also one of the reasons headmaster Steve Wigley from Studley Green primary school in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, banned them from his school. Mr Wigley felt the high price of some of the toys could make them socially divisive. He was also concerned about the safety of whirling yo-yos after seeing pupils with them in the playground.

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# Echoes of Thatcher as the gentleman is not for turning

ALL THAT was missing was a blond wig and a handbag.

The Prime Minister stormed through a speech - with Margaret Thatcher probably watching on television, turning to Denis and saying: "He really is one of us."

I was transported back, momentarily, to a speech delivered to a Conservative conference at exactly the same point into the then Mrs Thatcher's government - 17 months after her election.

The manufacturing industry was slowing down, jobs were being lost and exports were becoming increasingly difficult. "Wets" and other siren voices were urging a change of economic policy. Her

famous line: "The lady's not for turning" was implicitly restated by Mr Blair yesterday as: "Tony's not for turning."

Of course the language was slightly different. We did not have any "No Turning Back" but we did have "No Backing Down", powered out with emphasis no less than four times.

Compare the two speeches, 18 years apart: "No policy which puts at risk the defeat of inflation - however great its short-term attraction - can be right." (MT). "So we have set a tough inflation target. We will meet it. There will be no backing down." (TB).

There is no doubt that TINA

(there is no alternative) is back with a vengeance.

The build up to the speech was worthy of any American presidential convention. Only the balloons were missing. Delegates hung from the chandeliers, swaying from the balconies and stood in the wings.

A dramatic video presentation with music got them in the mood before the chairman announced our hero's entrance.

Suddenly he was there; our Tony, tall, radiant, looking good, oozing confidence and smiling his great smile.

A busbed hall heard and saw him dazzle and sparkle and he got straight into his stride - standing

## THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

with one foot 18 inches in front of the other, gripping the lectern as firmly as his party. Many in the audience

may well have been bemused and still find his challenge to modernise sticks in their throats. A few did not applaud in the early stages but he is a powerful speaker and knows how to use his soft and loud pedals to advantage over his audience. He can slow the pace, speed up, sound alternatively authoritative and similarly confident without shouting.

This melts all but the sternest of critics and by the end he had the hall eating out of his hand.

Half way through he mentioned Mo Mowlam. The hall went wild, stood, bellowed and clapped until their hands were red raw. He departed from his text: "That's the first

standing ovation in the middle of a speech for a person who is not even making a speech". But Mr Blair knew in advance that this interruption would give the audience an opportunity to shuffle their backsides and get comfortable again.

Mr Blair claimed to be different from his Tory predecessors but it looked like window dressing. He cracked a few scraps of minced gristle onto the conference floor, such as the abolition of hereditary peers. But, even here, Baroness Thatcher will chuckle approvingly.

She had more than her share of fun with grandees in the Lords and will not be sorry to see some of them get their come-uppance.

# Blair's vision to reform Britain

TONY BLAIR was given a standing ovation by party supporters yesterday as he urged them and the whole nation to join him in his radical vision to reform Britain.

The Prime Minister warned there would be no backing down on economic reform and spoke of the "burdens and responsibility" of government.

In his keynote address, Mr Blair pointed to Labour pledges that are turning the tide of rising hospital waiting lists and cutting class sizes.

Mr Blair said there would be an extra £400m of National Lottery money for specialist health, education and environment projects and extra money would be used to launch a nation-wide programme to make Britain's cancer services "the best in the world".

## Health

There will be a further £30m to modernise 50 accident and emergency departments next year and a new £25m instant booking system for patients.

From next year, the Government would introduce long-term agreements for delivery of services, the first 24-hour nursing helpline and a new £1bn information technology programme linking all hospitals and GPs.

We've done more than we ever promised and, where we have made promises, we are keeping them. Where we are accused of breaking them, it is over promises we never made," Mr Blair said.

He pledged that modernisation and reform would "equip our country for the future".

"This way we face the challenge together and, if the spirit of the nation is willing, it can make the body of the nation strong. One nation, one community, each and every one of us playing our part."

## Education

In a tough warning to teachers who were failing children, he said there were "too few good state schools, too much tolerance of mediocrity, too little pursuit of excellence."

He urged delegates, when the Government proposed fun-

ward ideas to give practical support to parents and children, help in dealing with poverty, help in balancing work and family and action on domestic violence, teenage pregnancies and supporting marriage.

Why should not head teachers turn round failing schools earn £60,000 or £70,000-a-year, he asked? "But equally if they cannot run the school properly, they shouldn't be running the school at all. I say work with us to get it done. Don't tell us we're unprincipled and unjust. For there is no greater injustice to inflict upon a child than a poor education."

## Welfare state

Outlining his vision of the welfare state, Mr Blair listed a series of problems from "often chaotic and unfair" disability benefits to an "out of date" pensions system.

But he pledged: "I did not come into politics to dismantle the welfare state. I believe in it ... so when we bring forward proposals for change in our Welfare Reform Bill in the coming Queen's Speech, don't tell us it is a betrayal of the welfare state when in truth welfare reform is its only salvation."

Mr Blair warned: "When you make reform, people will oppose you. They will stand up at public meetings and be applauded for attacking you ... some policies will attract attacks to the left of you, attacks to the right of you, attacks from behind and in front ... of course we'd rather be popular than unpopular. But better to be unpopular than wrong. And realise this."

The Prime Minister reminded delegates that in May last year the electorate voted for New Labour: "Loathing of the Tories was never enough for a landslide," he said.

"They wanted a new Labour Party. Not in the pocket of the trade unions. Not taxing them through the roof. Not chasing after every passing fad of the political fringe." Mr Blair added: "Yes, we are New Labour. But don't give me this nonsense that we're just a more moderate or competent Tory government."

What Tory government ever put £200m into our poorest estates in order to give them a future of hope?

What Tory government would have raised Child Benefit by over 20 per cent? Or given free eye tests to pensioners? Or four weeks minimum holiday entitlement to

Britain's workers? And what Tory government would have been prepared to increase by 25 per cent our spending on art and museums; not for what the sneer squad call luxuries, but because we believe art and culture are a liberating, wonderful addition to human experience and an integral part of the country we are creating."

Mr Blair went on to list the National Minimum Wage, backed up with the Working Families Tax Credit, trade union recognition and increase in overseas aid as key achievements of the Government.

He said: "Deny opportunity, leave injustice or discrimination unchecked and we lay waste the genius of the nation... when a young black student, filled with talent is murdered by racist thugs and Stephen Lawrence becomes a household name not because of the trial into his murder, but because of an inquiry into why his murderers are walking free, it isn't just wrong, it weakens the very bonds of decency and respect we need to make our country strong. We stand strong together."

## Europe

Arguing for a more positive attitude towards the European Union, the Prime Minister hailed Gerhard Schroeder's election victory in Germany, adding that of 15 EU countries, 13 now had centre-left governments.

"Societies based on inclusion not division. Countries that are internationalist not isolationist ... this is the Third Way, our way of reconnecting people to political idealism in an age where political ideology is distrusted. It is no coincidence that the debates on devolution and Europe are happening together."

Prime Minister said across the globe nations were reshaping their identity as nation states and their future place in the world.

He stressed: "Of course we should be positive and constructive in Europe. Britain is stronger for it."

"Though Britain will take the decision on the euro in our own time and in our own national interest, meanwhile we work to make the euro succeed, prepare our business, educate our people and be free to join, if we wish to, if the economic benefits are clear." He added: "Sure, we have to reform Europe and we are winning that battle."

Mr Blair said when the EU helped Britain with trade, promoting prosperity, saving the environment, co-operating on cross-border problems like crime, it was doing what the EU should do.

But when it started interfering with every last detail of Britain's national life, "that's a Europe we can do without".

He insisted: "Decentralise where possible. Integrate where necessary ... we can play a leading role with others in Europe in getting reform. The others in Europe want us to. But we can't be leaders without being partners."

Mr Blair urged the conference not to fall for the myth about choosing closer links with the US rather than the EU because being stronger in Europe meant stronger with the US. "And the stronger we stand with the US the stronger the bridge we build between our European partners and our American friends," he said.

## Devolution

Reflecting on devolution, he emphasised that the "enemies of the Union are the advocates



Tony Blair at the conference yesterday where he called for 'one nation, one community'

Brian Harris

cent living. But I want more than that.

"I want them to grow up in a country of which they feel proud. I want to build for them a country in which their children can play safely in the park and can walk home at night without fear."

"A country in which every colour is a good colour, and every member of every race able to fulfil their potential."

"A country in which the sick are cared for, and the weak are tended by the strong."

"A country in which every parent treasures their children when young, and every child cherishes their parents when old."

"That is a country to be proud of. That is a community worth the name. As our children's prospects rise, so our country's prospects rise."

"As our children grow in confidence, so our country grows in confidence. As our country grows in confidence, so the challenge doesn't seem so daunting after all. By the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone."

Letters, Review, page 2  
Leading article, Review, page 3

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## PAGERS

reflecting on devolution, he emphasised that the "enemies of the Union are the advocates

of the status quo and the separatists alike".

In a strong warning to the Scottish National Party leader Alex Salmond, Mr Blair said: "We have defeated the one and we will defeat the other. The SNP want Scotland wrenched out of the UK, and relations with England, can you believe this, run by a Minister for External Affairs, as if we lived on separate planets."

forget for a moment the threat to jobs, to industry, when 50 per cent of Scottish trade is with the rest of the UK. It is wrong in principle. It is the wrong values."

Mr Blair said that instead of separation, it was separation. The SNP looked at England as the Tories looked at Scotland, with a "control freak" in his conference speech in Brighton last week.

He joked: "Paddy, you've been in Downing Street often enough now to know that all major speeches have to be cleared through my Press Office. This one wasn't. So I declare it inoperative."

"Believe in the co-operation we have had between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Where we agree - and there are many issues where we do - our policies should be grown up enough to say so."

He added that the forthcoming report by the Jenkins Commission on a new voting system for Westminster "should be listened to".

But he added: "Be assured. This government will decide on its response in the interests of the country, not in the interests of the Liberal Democrats."

The Prime Minister accused the Conservative Party, which has a three to one majority in the House of Lords, of arrogance.

Pointing to his willingness as Prime Minister to give up the sole power of patronage in appointing life peers, he said: "When we use the mandate of the British people gave us at the ballot box to get rid of the power of those hereditary peers, I call that democracy."

"What is more, this supposed control freak will be the first Prime Minister to remove from himself the sole power of patronage in appointing peers."

"In the future

The Prime Minister urged his party to look at Britain through the eyes of a child growing up today.

He said: "They're anxious too. More anxious than we were at their age, and no wonder."

"More violence. More crime. Drugs. Families breaking down. The old moral order under strain."

"I want for my children the Britain that you want for yours. Of course I want them to be successful, and go on to make a de-

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Law and order: Penal reformers have warned against introducing 'macho policing' that could lead to inner-city riots

# Blair turns to zero tolerance for crime

**ZERO TOLERANCE** policing is to be imposed on the 20 most crime-ridden estates and inner-city areas in England and Wales under a £3m initiative by Tony Blair yesterday.

The tough crime policy will concentrate on cracking down on persistent offenders, car crime, offences against children and black people, and anti-social behaviour.

But penal reformers yesterday warned against introducing "macho policing" that could result in "inner-city riots" and Home Office research has also questioned the effectiveness of the American style system.

In a second initiative the Prime Minister announced plans to cut the rising number of car crimes by a third over the next five years.

In calling for "zero tolerance" of crime, Mr Blair pointed

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

ever small, the targeting of persistent offenders, better home security and diversion projects such as special areas where teenagers can spray graffiti.

The widespread use of zero tolerance is a tacit admission by the Government that many of the current policing tactics and the increasing number of people being jailed is failing to turn the tide on crime.

However, latest research from the Home Office warned there were "large question marks" over its long-term effects. It warned that "over zealous" policing "can lead to poor police-community relations".

Zero tolerance is based on the American "broken window" theory which argues that allowing a climate of disorder to engulf a community would lead to more serious crime.

The approach was championed in Britain by Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon in Middlesbrough who gained national prominence by his use of zero tolerance that saw the crime level fall in Cleveland.

However, the policy was criticised after Det Supt Mallon was suspended and a major inquiry was set up into allegations that officers from Middlesbrough CID were threatening suspects and offering drugs for information.

Other chief constables have also questioned the use of zero tolerance.

Paul Cavardine, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders added yesterday: "Some forms of zero tolerance involve the kind of macho policing which produced the inner-city riots in the 1980s."



A group of youngsters waiting at a bus stop on the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, yesterday Tom Pilston



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## Estate where detection of crime trebled

TONY BLAIR says the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, is an ideal hot spot, so perhaps it was only right that I was accosted by a 12-year-old boy two minutes after arriving. "Hey mister," said the youngster who called himself Daniel. "I want compensation. Someone's nicked me bike."

And indeed they had. An hour after Daniel "found" his new bike, someone else on the pebble-dashed council estate had decided to "find" it too.

But Daniel's artful dodging is a mere blip. Four years ago this was wild Walpole in Huddersfield's Crofton Moor area. Burglary, disorder and violent crime was through the roof. Gangs of youths roamed and terrorised with impunity.

Walpole is by no means the worst ghetto Britain has produced. It's very average. Just over 340 houses cling to the steep Walpole Road that marks the boundary for the gangs that live here.

In 1994, the Home Office chose this estate for a pilot project called "Biteback"; the theory being that most victims end up being repeatedly targeted, particularly for burglary. Huddersfield Police Division targeted burglars and protected the victims. In short, instead of blanket zero-tolerance policing it adopted quality not quantity. It worked.

Four years later, repeat burglaries are down 70 per cent, burglaries throughout the division have been halved to 2,000 and crime detection trebled.

GARY FINN

### WHAT THEY SAID

ANOTHER party conference, another crackdown on crime. A brief history of Home Secretary conference speeches of the past 20 years shows neither party has been shy about indulging in shamelessly populist rhetoric.

October 1988, Brighton. Douglas Hurd can't resist pandering to conference with pledges to introduce a new extradition law and a measure to seize terrorist funds - both of which were repeated in Jack Straw's recent anti-terror Bill. "We want to prevent London from being a haven for foreign criminals whom our friends want to bring to justice."



October 1990, Bournemouth. David Waddington tells the hangers and floggers what they want to hear. "I am absolutely sure in my own mind that some people minded to commit murder would be deterred from doing so if capital punishment existed." Mr Waddington also pre-empted Mr Straw with pledges to extend by-laws to "sweep drunken louts off the streets".

October 1994, Bournemouth. Michael Howard delivers 27-point package, including measures to remove the right to silence. Less than half of the plan was implemented.

October 1995, Blackpool. Mr Howard goes one step further with longer sentences for habitual offenders. "Some people won't like it. They'll say it's too tough. I've got a simple answer. If you don't want the time, don't do the crime. No half-time sentences for full-time crimes," he said.



October 1997, Brighton. Weeks before his son is arrested for drug possession, Jack Straw dismisses calls to legalise cannabis. "Drugs wreck lives, we will not legitimise their use." He promises to make race violence and harassment a specific offence. "I want zero tolerance of crime in our neighbourhoods."



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# One family in four now lone-parent



The rite of christening still holds wide appeal, though many parents are turning to secular naming ceremonies

**BRITAIN HAS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN EUROPE.** WITH THE NUMBERS RISING BY MORE THAN 90 PER CENT SINCE THE 1980S, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED YESTERDAY.

Lone parents in the UK also tend to have lower incomes, are more likely to be unemployed and have lower educational qualifications than their continental counterparts.

A total of 1.8 million single parents in Britain means that they now account for 23 per cent of all families of dependent children, compared with an EU average of 14 per cent.

The European figures from Eurostat, the EU's statistical office in Luxembourg, show that while the numbers have risen by 94 per cent in Britain since 1983, there has been only a 58 per cent rise in the European Union as a whole.

Only in Ireland are the numbers rising more sharply - with a 100 per cent increase in one-parent families to 65,000, accounting for 13 per cent of all families.

Greece has the lowest number of one-parent families at just 7 per cent. Spain is the next lowest with 8 per cent and Italy, Luxembourg and Holland all have 11 per cent.

As a whole the European Union now has nearly 7 million lone parents. It says the rise from 9 per cent of all families to 14 per cent is "one of the most striking demographic and social trends in recent years".

Lone parents have been

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

**EUROPE'S LONE PARENTS**

Single-parent families as % of all families with dependent children	UK	23
Finland	17	
France	15	
Belgium	15	
Austria	14	
Germany	13	
Ireland	13	
Portugal	12	
Italy	11	
Luxembourg	11	
Holland	11	
Spain	8	
Greece	7	

ing in 1996, compared with 84 per cent of lone fathers.

Overall, lone mothers are more likely to be in the labour market than other mothers with dependent children - except, again, in the UK. Here they are 25 per cent less likely to be economically active than other mothers. On average a third of lone mothers worked part-time.

While nearly half of lone mothers around Europe aged 25-64 had completed upper secondary education or held a university degree, in the UK the figure was as low as 36 per cent.

"The two main routes into lone parenthood - the breakdown of a relationship and the birth of a child outside marriage - have increased considerably since the early 70s," said the EU report.

"For example, the country with the largest proportion of single parents - the UK - has the highest divorce rate in the Union and the relatively large number of children born outside marriage."

The National Council of One Parent Families said: "It highlights the disgrace that one-parent families continue to live on woefully inadequate incomes."

"We welcome the Government's policies to make it easier for lone parents to get back into work, but there will always be some lone parents who cannot work and need to be lifted out of poverty."

## Christenings falling fast

BY GLENDA COOPER

ONE THIRD of new parents would like a secular naming ceremony for their baby, a survey found, as the number of christenings continues to fall.

Only one infant in four is now christened, continuing a trend that has been apparent for more than half a century. However, most parents still like the idea of some sort of ceremony, with more than three-quarters of those questioned saying they support a traditional service in principle.

But more than six out of ten said that parents are pressurised by friends and family into having their children christened and a third thought it was hypocritical of non-churchgoers to have a religious ceremony.

The NOP survey for *Bella* magazines, of nearly 1,000 adults, found that a third would consider having a secular ceremony, such as those suggested by the British Humanist Association and the Baby Naming Society.

Earlier this year it was revealed the Government is considering the introduction of register office ceremonies where parents can vow to "care, protect and nurture" their baby.

Steve Jenkins, spokesman

## Appeal for action over drug-drivers

THE GOVERNMENT is being urged to tackle the growing problem of "drug driving" through a big education programme. Illegal drug-takers now account for one in five of all motoring deaths in Britain, a team of 11 medical experts commissioned by the Automobile Association says.

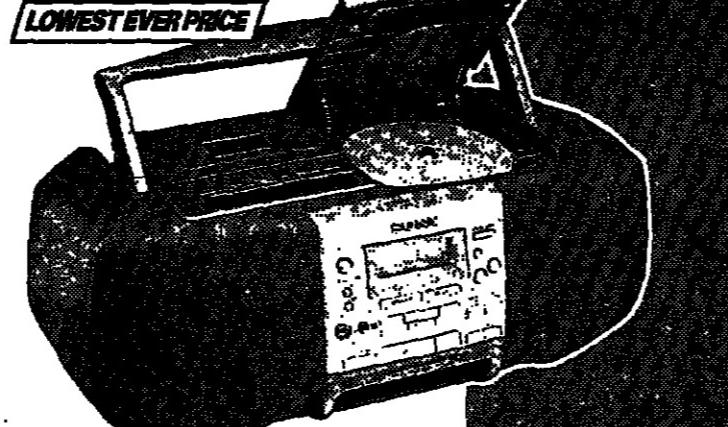
Figures show that in 16 per cent of motoring deaths in Britain traces of illegal drugs were found. In 75 per cent of those deaths, cannabis was found in the person's bloodstream.

But most people driving under the influence of illegal and legal drugs do not know they are breaking the law, the experts say today in a discussion paper which goes on to point out that it costs police £50 to do the necessary tests to prosecute a driver believed to be under the influence of drugs.

The panel wants the departments of health and transport and the Home Office to re-examine their policies on accidents where people are found to have been influenced by drugs.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 30 September 1998

HOME NEWS/11

# Sadler's Wells is 'facing closure'

BY LOUISE JURY

THE WHOLE future of the newly rebuilt Sadler's Wells Theatre in London is in jeopardy after the Royal Opera House cancelled its programme there, it was claimed yesterday.

Ian Albery, chief executive of Sadler's Wells, said the Royal Opera's decision could close the new £42m theatre unless he receives immediate support to replace the 25 weeks of performances the ROH has axed.

The theatre demanded £1m from the Arts Council to help it to find and book replacement companies, a "near mission impossible" at six months' notice rather than the normal two.

It has already issued a legal letter before action - a preliminary step to sue the ROH.

The theatre's board has told Mr Albery to take all legal action necessary, which might include a claim against the Department of Culture and the Arts Council for inducing the breach of contract.

The deadline for action was "days rather than weeks", Mr Albery said.

The Royal Opera House's cancellation of next summer's performances could cost Sadler's Wells vital matching funding for the rebuilding programme and place 100 staff jobs under threat.

This lack of thought and coordination puts in jeopardy Sadler's Wells as an institution," Mr Albery said, adding that the situation was a "debacle of major proportions".

The theatre was due to reopen in two weeks' time after two years of building work, funded by £36m of lottery money.

The project was still more than £4m short of the £10m "matching funding" needed to release the full lottery grant.

Mr Albery said meeting the shortfall would be made more difficult by the uncertainty.

Banks who had agreed bridging loans were questioning the financial consequences of the ROH cancellation, which would have a "catastrophic effect" on capital fund-raising.

The chief executive was particularly bitter as Sadler's Wells, though happy to take four weeks of the Royal Ballet next year, had not wanted 21 weeks of opera in a building that was supposed to be an international centre for dance. The theatre had agreed under pressure from the Arts Council.

Royal Ballet and Royal Opera performances scheduled for this autumn have not been cancelled, but are at risk



Leah-Marian Jones watches Rosemary Joshua putting final touches to their Rhinemaidens' costumes for the Royal Opera's semi-staged performance of Wagner's 'Ring' cycle at the Royal Albert Hall, London, last night, at which 750 tickets costing £7.50 each were available to the public

BY CLARE GARNER

THE ARTS Council spent nearly £23m on administering lottery awards in England last year; 22m more than the previous year, according to its annual report.

By far the largest proportion of the administrative costs for 1997-98 was the £8.4m on fees to consultants recruited to assess applications.

The Arts Council's operational costs were double those of the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is responsible for distributing a similar amount of money approximately £500m a year over the whole of the UK.

Yesterday the council argued that without freelance accountants and arts administrators many projects would run into difficulties. "We have to have people... ensuring that the money is being spent properly," said a spokeswoman.

But Peter Hewitt, the council's chief executive, concedes expenditure is high and is determined to reduce it. The council has ratified a plan to sack half its 320 staff and to defer greater decision-making powers to Regional Arts Boards, moves likely to save at least £2m a year.

## Masons who fear 'outing' resign to save careers

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

FREEMASONS have suffered an "unprecedented number" of resignations because of the Government's campaign to "out" members, it was revealed yesterday.

The United Grand Lodge of England said about 40 members, mostly police officers and local government officials, have resigned, claiming that their careers would suffer if they were identified as Freemasons. Many others have recently left, citing "personal reasons".

John Hamill, a spokesman for the Grand Lodge, said: "This is the first time we have had a large number of resignations all giving the same reasoning. People are wondering if Freemasonry is a good thing for their careers and they are, rightly, putting their jobs and families first."

The move follows Mr Straw's invitation to the Grand Lodge to provide the names of judges, magistrates, police officers, prison and probation officers, and legally qualified members of the Crown Prosecution Service for inclusion in a public register of Masons.

A number of local authorities also ask staff to declare their membership of "secret societies", such as Freemasonry".

Writing in the Freemasonry newsletter, *Grand Lodge News*, Lord Farnham, the Pro Grand Master urged Freemasons to declare their membership "with pride, but at the same time to register your protest at the unfairness of this discrimination".

He added: "The perception that disclosure could adversely affect an individual's em-

ployment may lead some of you to resign from the Craft in order to save your jobs."

Freemasonry is fighting to overcome widespread public suspicion over its activities. During the select committee hearing in February, members of the Grand Lodge were threatened with possible contempt of Parliament charges after refusing to disclose the names of Masons who may have been linked to three police corruption scandals.

Senior Masons are hoping to establish a legal precedent by bringing a discrimination case against an employer who unfairly sacks someone because of their masonic links. The Grand Lodge is setting up a panel of lawyers, some of whom will be Masons, to investigate bringing such an action.

## Sandeel fishing ban proposed

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN PROPOSED a seasonal ban yesterday on the massive North Sea fishery for sandeels, favourite food of the puffin and other seabirds, putting it on a collision course with Denmark.

A Danish fleet of 250 boats takes a million tonnes a year of the tiny fish in an "industrial" catch - they are not sold for human consumption but processed into fishmeal, oil and margarine, and at one time were burnt in power stations.

But overfishing has in the past caused seabird populations to fall dramatically, and yesterday the Fisheries minister, Elliot Morley, proposed to the European Commission that sandeel fishing should be banned in a large area each

Denmark's fleet has concerned British fisheries officials as well as environmentalists, as it far exceeds that of any other species. For example, only 50,000 tonnes of cod are caught annually by all North Sea boats together.

But it is the potential effect on seabirds in particular that has led to the proposed ban. In 1984 the 30,000 pairs of Arctic terns in the Shetlands failed to breed, and the failure continued for seven years until the Shetland sandeel fishery was banned. During its closure, from 1991 to 1994, the tern population gradually recovered. The fishery has been reopened but is strictly regulated.

Arctic terns and puffins in

particular are totally dependent on baby sandeels to feed their young but other seabirds are also heavily reliant on them.

The Government's action follows a report on fishing's effect on wildlife from the official scientific body that regulates North Atlantic fish stocks, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. It advised a precautionary approach for the sandeel fishery and recommended seasonal closures.

"If the closure can be agreed, it will at the same time provide a safeguard for other wildlife in the area, including dolphins, harbour porpoises, salmon and sea trout," Mr Morley said.

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This advertisement appeared originally as editorial material in another newspaper.

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63	13.5	19.9 47.4%
53	16.9	24.8 46.7%
51	15.6	22.3 44.2%
56	14.6	20.5 40.4%
64	11.5	15.2 38.2%
53	11.7	15.7 34.2%
68	17.2	22.1 25.5%
82	16.9	21.1 24.8%
66	19.0	21.0 10.5%
57	17.3	19.1 10.4%
54	15.7	16.2 7.0%
Average	15.3	19.5 27.4%

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# Battered Anwar in court at last



An injured Anwar Ibrahim leaves court in Kuala Lumpur after denying sex and corruption charges. Reuters

**IN A GRAVE** blow to the credibility of the Malaysian government, Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister, appeared in court yesterday bearing visible injuries from a severe beating up at the hands of the police.

It was the first time that Mr Anwar had been seen by his family or his lawyers since his arrest 10 days ago under Malaysia's Internal Security Act - a draconian law condemned by human rights organisations. It allows for indefinite incarceration incommunicado and without trial.

Throughout his detention, senior police officers as well as Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's prime minister, insisted that he would receive a fair trial and that he was being treated properly while in custody.

In an overflowing court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Mr Anwar said that he feared for his life after being beaten into semi-consciousness, held in solitary confinement and denied medical treatment for his injuries.

Two of Mr Anwar's daugh-

**BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY**  
in Kuala Lumpur

ters wept openly in the court when they saw their father. His eye and arm were visibly bruised from the attack carried out in Bukit Aman central police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

In a statement read out to the court, he described being handcuffed and blindfolded. "I was asked to stand up, and I was boxed very hard on the left temple and the right part of my head," he said. "I was slapped very hard, left and right, until blood seeped from my nose and my lip was split."

Later he fell into unconsciousness and suffered temporary paralysis in his arm. Despite being unable to open his left eye or to walk steadily, he was denied medical treatment for five days. "Look at the condition of my eye after 10 days," Mr Anwar told the court. "You can imagine why they refused to see me in court earlier."

Malaysian police have been accused of using excessive

force in the past, but the public exposure of such blatant brutality against a man who was one of Malaysia's most powerful and respected figures until a month ago will be a grave embarrassment to Dr Mahathir.

Since sacking Mr Anwar as deputy prime minister and finance minister, he has faced an unprecedented backlash with almost daily rallies of demonstrators calling for his resignation, and for political and legal reform.

His justification for the sacking was that his deputy was a homosexual, unfit to become prime minister of a Muslim country such as Malaysia. Mr Anwar pleaded not guilty to five charges of corruption and to four of sodomy, allegations that are widely regarded as fabricated.

Yesterday his former speech writer and his adopted brother, who had claimed to have been sodomised by the former deputy prime minister in his official residence, were reported to have withdrawn their confessions on the ground that they were coerced. Mr Anwar's

wife, Azizah Ismail, who has taken over the leadership of his so-called "reform movement", was threatened with arrest after suggesting that he might be injected with the AIDS virus deliberately to substantiate allegations of promiscuity. "I am really so worried about him," she said after accompanying an independent doctor to examine her husband after his court appearance.

"When I was told of the possibility of injections, I felt very fearful and my fears are not unfounded."

Malaysia's official leader of the opposition, Lim Kit Siang of the Democratic Action Party, said that he would ask Dr Mahathir for "a full explanation as to why the former deputy prime minister was brutally attacked like a common criminal while in the custody of the police".

The reform movement initiated by Mr Anwar has gained broad support from Malaysian opposition parties and human rights organisations. On Sunday, 18 of them announced the formation of the Coalition for People's Democracy.



A slum 'doctor' working in Delhi. The New York Times

## Doctors to fast over quackery

**BY PETER POPHAM**  
in Delhi

year a Quackery Prohibition Bill received its first reading before the Delhi Legislative Assembly. But it was then referred to a sub-committee, which has been sitting on it ever since. If the sub-committee does not recommend action by today, the process will have to begin all over again.

Dr Rajesh Chawla, president of the DMA and one of the three doctors preparing to begin fasting, said during a sit-down demonstration on Friday that the Bill had been shelved because many quacks are "politically active": strongly positioned and influential in slum communities, they threaten sitting members of the Legislative Assembly with massive voter defections in the next election if the Bill should be passed.

Dr Chawla says the DMA's figure of 30,000 quacks in Delhi is a guess, based on the experience of the association's 10,000 members.

"Additionally," he said, "6,000 chemists are prescribing medicines. And in the slums, quacks are numerous. In the Jhuggi cluster back there" - he gestured in the direction of the fearful riverside slum of Yamuna Pushta, cheek by jowl with Raj Ghat, the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated - "there are 170 unqualified doctors and only one qualified doctor."

Another fake doctor in the village of Chonchi, outside Delhi, used the same hypodermic to inject all the villagers, who all now have AIDS.

Fed up with official apathy toward the problem, 1,000 of Delhi's legitimate doctors and 2,000 supporters marched to demand action last week.

On Monday, three prominent doctors will begin a public hunger strike to put pressure on the city government.

"They are angry because last

time their mistakes are sometimes spectacular: one practitioner opened up the abdomen of a man complaining of acute stomach ache and then, explaining that he was infested by a snake, removed his intestines. Shortly afterwards, of course, the man died.

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"They are angry because last

## Bangladeshis arrested

BANGLADESH POLICE arrested three opposition leaders on yesterday for their alleged involvement in the killing of four jailed government leaders 23 years ago, the families of those detained said.

The four government leaders were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on 3 November 1975 in Dhaka jail, where they had been interned following a

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# Greens rush to set agenda

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

SUDDENLY, EVERYBODY is in a hurry in Germany. Gerhard Schröder, winner of last Sunday's general elections, says he will be rushing to Berlin in April, five months before the government's scheduled move to the resurrected capital.

The Greens, too, are pressed for time. Even before the first meeting of their parliamentary group yesterday, several Green MPs were offering urgent advice to a government that has yet to be formed. "There must be very quick decisions, to make it clear that things are changing in Germany," said Claudia Roth, one of the new MPs.

Ms Roth, a former member of the European parliament and a leading representative of the Greens' *fundi* wing, the so-called fundamentalists, is especially impatient with her future coalition partners' dithering over nuclear power. "We need to legislate for the closure of nuclear plants, and we need to make it quite clear that some of these plants will be closed down immediately," she said.

She was speaking to *The Independent* shortly before joining her colleagues in the first meeting of the parliamentary party since the elections. Green MPs had conferred on Monday night, but are split along *fundi* and *realo* - the so-called pragmatists - lines.

How the 47 of them will combine, and how they can cooperate with Mr Schröder's Social Democrats have become the central questions in German politics. The answers will define the speed of Mr Schröder's progress through the minefields of government.

The early signs do not seem encouraging. The Greens' leadership yesterday demanded four out of 16 cabinet posts, one



The Greens' spokespersons Juergen Trittin (left) and Gunda Roestel before the start of a party meeting in Bonn yesterday. Reuters

more than expected. They put employment and a new nationality law at the top of their list of priorities, followed by the economy on petrol and nuclear power.

The latter looks set to provide the sternest test for the coalition-builders. On this issue at least, Mr Schröder is in no haste. The SPD has pledged to "phase out" nuclear power, maybe over 10 years.

It had been expected that, in the spirit of give and take,

some minor concessions will be tossed to the Greens, perhaps by setting an earlier deadline. Parliament is elected for only four years, so in some ways Mr Schröder can promise over a 10-year span whatever he likes. But if the Greens stick to their guns, some real compromise might have to be struck.

In judging what the Greens will buy, Mr Schröder is hampered by the fact that not even Joschka Fischer, the Greens' de-

facto leader, knows what can be sold to his members. Although they have come a long way from their organic vegetable patches, the Greens remain an unconventional party. So unconventional, that their membership sets the party line, and the leaders have to toe it.

The structure of the party is diffuse and painstakingly democratic. Genders have to be balanced in every post, as do the regions and the two wings. The

*fundi* are nowhere near as dogmatic as their predecessors 20 years ago, but they try hard to live up to the label. Half the team of 12 that sits down to negotiate with Mr Schröder on Friday are *fundi*.

Even then, the Social Democrats might not discover the Green bottom line. Ms Roth thinks, for instance, that even if Mr Fischer becomes Foreign Minister, her wing of the party will not be entirely reas-

sured. "Foreign policy will be difficult," she says. "We have different ideas concerning the Bundeswehr, and security structures in Europe." They want to abolish conscription and to water down Nato's role.

The *fundi* have other ideas, too. They will not scupper a coalition deal, because the Red-Green project is too important for all participants, but they are certain to apply the brakes to Mr Schröder's progress.

## Albanian, 30, set to be Europe's youngest PM

PANDELI MAJKO, Albania's 30-year-old Socialist Party secretary-general, is about to become Europe's youngest head of government.

Mr Majko, who took part in the 1990 student protests that helped to bring down the Stalinist regime, has never held government office. But as head of the Socialist parliamentary group since elections in June 1997, and the party's secretary-general, he has worked closely with the outgoing Prime Minister, Fatos Nano, and is a key, if low-profile, figure in the country's politics.

Nano resigned on Monday night after failing to get the

backing of his five-party coalition for a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of an eruption of political violence two weeks ago.

The Socialists, whose coalition has a comfortable parliamentary majority, nominated Majko as their candidate to succeed Nano yesterday, and his appointment by President Rexhep Meidani appeared to be a formality.

Western diplomats believe the fact that Majko is untainted by past association with the Communist regime that ruled for four decades could enable him to improve Albania's highly polarised political climate.

His appointment should re-

move a factor that has poisoned Albanian politics since the Nano coalition took office 14 months ago: the personal animosity between the outgoing Prime Minister and the former president Sali Berisha.

"He's a technocrat, open, well-disposed towards the outside world," said a Western diplomat. "His English is quite good, and he doesn't have the baggage that people in their fifties and sixties have."

Another diplomat said: "Majko represents a new generation, the generation of students who toppled the Communist regime. He represents hope for Albania."

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# Right threatens West Bank accord

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU will spend today, Yom Kippur, the most contemplative day of the Jewish year, calculating how to call the bluff of his right-wing coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory to the Palestinians.

The Israeli Prime Minister's White House summit on Monday with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and President Bill

BY ERIC SILVER  
in Jerusalem  
and ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

Clinton set the stage for a showdown that Mr Netanyahu has evaded for the past 18 months.

At the Washington summit, Mr Arafat accepted a modified version to a United States peace proposal in which Israel will withdraw its troops from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Aharon Domb, general secretary of the West Bank and Gaza settlers' council, warned the Israeli leader: "If there is a withdrawal, there will be no government."

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders will return to Washington in mid-October accompanied by advisers, for a replay of the 1978 Camp David conference, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. On that occasion, President Jimmy

Carter kept Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat secluded in his Maryland retreat for 13 days until they were ready to sign.

The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is coming to the Middle East next week to sustain the momentum and settle as many points still in dispute as possible before the next summit. Mr Clinton said on Monday that there had been a "significant narrowing of the gaps".

The cautious assumption on

all sides of the Israeli debate is that there is a real chance of a breakthrough which would balance a 13 per cent Israeli withdrawal with more vigorous efforts by the Palestinians to curb Islamist violence.

Israel's Defence Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, predicted yesterday that it would "surely be possible to reach a package of deals in a number of areas" during Mrs Albright's visit.

But hardline coalition oppo-

nents of the Oslo agreement will do their best to prove him wrong. "We say no," said Hanan Porat, a leader of the National Religious Party, the third biggest in the coalition, with nine MPs. "If the government decides on this withdrawal, which means giving Arafat a Palestinian state on a silver platter; we won't be able to be part of this government, and that means there will be elections."

With Mr Netanyahu's par-

liamentary base already eroded to a precarious 61 out of 120, the dissidents could force a dissolution if the Labour and other left-wing opposition parties joined them in voting against the Prime Minister.

Interviewed just before the Jewish new year, Mr Netanyahu reminded the right that early elections could bring power to a left-wing government ready for much greater concessions to the Palestinians. "I don't believe," he said, "that anyone will descend to such folly."

The question is whether the

## Credit card saga grips courtroom

FOR THE past two weeks, the Santa Monica courthouse has been gripped by the spectacle of Susan McDougal - the Arkansas businesswoman who recently emerged from jail for her role in the presidential Whitewater scandal - defending herself against accusations that she embezzled more than \$150,000 (£90,000) from the conductor Zubin Mehta and his wife Nancy while working at their assistant in the late Eighties.

Teams of financial documents and credit card bills have stripped the mystique from the Mehtas' personal spending habits, much as the Kenneth Starr report has revealed Bill Clinton's more intimate secrets.

Thus we learn that Nancy Mehta, herself a former actress, became so enamoured of a mattress she slept on in a hotel in Italy that she spent tens of thousands of dollars having it shipped from the Swiss manufacturer to Los Angeles.

Then there are the contested purchases - everything from a computer to a Barbie doll - that Ms McDougal may or may not have bought for her own purposes with her erstwhile friend and employer's money. Did Mrs Mehta know she was paying to fix Ms McDougal's mother's teeth or to put her up in a Los Angeles hotel? No, was her unequivocal answer in court.

According to the prosecution, Ms McDougal spent as much as \$10,000 a month on a credit card that Mrs Mehta did not even know existed. She

BY ANDREW GUMBEL  
in Los Angeles

then paid off the bills by forging Mrs Mehta's signature on her cheque book. "I thought, how could she pay \$10,000 a month on this card?" Mrs Mehta testified. "Then I realised - I'm paying for it."

Ms McDougal's lawyers forced Mrs Mehta to admit that several employees were authorised to use credit cards. The picture that the defence is building up is of a household with little, if any, control over its finances, with everything run on verbal agreements.

Effectively, the case boils down to one woman's word against another. In court, they have styled themselves as polar opposites; the dark-haired Ms McDougal sporting a cream suit, while Mrs Mehta, a blonde, turned up in prosecutor black. Judge Leslie Light, also a former actress, has added his own flourishes, apologising for his constant interruptions.

Although the two affairs have nothing to do with each other, Ms McDougal's reputation is inevitably coloured by her role in the Whitewater affair. She refused to testify against the Clintons over the long-running land deal and spent 18 months in jail for her pains. Now she faces 12 criminal charges, including fraud and failure to file tax returns, and could face another seven years behind bars if convicted for all of them.



An American television reporter wades through flooded downtown Mobile, Alabama street as Hurricane Georges battered the area

Reuters

## Tornadoes follow in Georges' wake

HURRICANE GEORGES, which had lashed the Gulf coast of the United States in the early hours of Monday, was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as its swirling winds dropped below 50mph.

But the storm system lingered over southern Alabama, bringing as much as 30 inches of rain to counties south of the state capital, Montgomery, and the Florida Panhandle, and a rash of tornadoes.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Montgomery

Residents were advised to remain indoors; schools, and businesses remained closed, and the thousands of people who had moved inland under the hurricane evacuation order were instructed to wait before returning home.

Extensive flooding cut even main roads and many secondary roads were submerged.

Tornado warnings flashed on to television screens by the hour.

In the event of people being caught outside with a tornado bearing down, the advice was "as a last resort, lie on the floor, or flat in a ditch, and cover your head. If you're in a car, don't think you can outrun it; take cover immediately."

In the coastal cities of Mobile and Biloxi, flooding caused by the storm-surge had subsided, leaving behind trails of wreck-

age, including industrial containers toppled on their sides and trees washed up by the seas. Returning townspeople were warned of the risk of snakes and insects.

Flood warnings remained in force, with the new risk coming from rivers swollen by 48 hours of rain, equivalent to six months' normal rainfall for the area.

Forecasters expressed the fear that Georges could regenerate itself as a hurricane

if it reached the Atlantic ocean without losing much more strength. Gusts of up to 70mph were being felt in the Montgomery area.

Across the Gulf coast region more than 680,000 people were without power yesterday, with little hope of supplies being restored before today at the earliest.

Airports remained closed, and bus and train services, suspended since Sunday, were

expected to resume gradually in coming days.

The areas worst affected by Hurricane Georges, from Puerto Rico in the east to the Florida Keys to the Gulf coast, have now all been declared federal disaster areas by President Bill Clinton, allowing them to claim central assistance.

In contrast to the Caribbean, where the hurricane caused more than 300 deaths, only four died in the US.

## Bees bring taste of honey to inner city

HIS BEE-KEEPER'S smoker puffing blue clouds in one hand and a flat metal hook in the other, David Graves snags a frame deep inside the hive and, ever so gently, lifts it out. What he finds delights him - a perfect comb fairly laden with dark, oozing honey. "This," he declares, "would win a prize in a show."

Although October has nearly arrived, the bees are still hard at work scouring their surroundings for blossoms and the nectar deep inside them. But then that is one of the reasons why the hive is here, rather than in some woody glade deep in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, where Mr Graves actually lives. There, it is cold already. Here, summer has still to make its exit.

Believe it or not, we are on the roof of a hut in a community garden in the less-than-pastoral Lower East Side of Manhattan. All around are tenement buildings, some abandoned and waiting for the wrecking ball, others vibrating with the sounds of Latin music and children out of school. In the garden itself, the shrubs occasionally stir,

not with the gentle winds but with the scurrying beneath of outsized rats.

This has been the second summer of Mr Graves' unusual experiment. A regular at the various farmers' markets that are thriving around Manhattan, he is the only vendor to offer local honey that is, well, really local. His customers, though sceptical at first, have come to love it; so much that they happily pay \$5 (£3) for half a pound of the stuff, twice what he asks for honey produced back in the Berkshires.

It all started because of honey-hungry black bears. When their assaults on his hives in Massachusetts got too much, he moved a few to the roof of his father's house. "Then I thought, 'Gee, there are lots of roofs in New York City. Why not put some of the hives up there?'"

The difficulty was persuading enough people to take the bees. "It's hard for people to visualise me putting a hive on their rooftop. Most people think they are dangerous, because they can't distinguish between bees and yellow-jackets [wasps] and hornets. A honey bee is very unlikely to

AMERICAN TIMES  
NEW YORK



David Graves among his New York City bees AP

attack. But I couldn't put them on street level. Someone would get too close to the hive and get stung."

One morning, Mr Graves

put a mini-hive, jammed with bees, on his stall with a sign that read: "We need a home. We're very gentle and would love to share our New York

honey. Do you have a rooftop?" Gradually, takers began to come forward. Such as the old lady who offered space on the balcony of her 32nd-floor home in a posh Upper West Side apartment building. And the couple who thought a hive on the roof of their brownstone would be educational for their daughters. Now he has seven hives in Manhattan and Brooklyn and one on the roof of a school in the Bronx. The hotel he sometimes sleeps in next to Union Square took one too. "Sometimes I'll open a jar when I'm selling on the square and the bees will come and visit. I say to people, 'Look, that's one of my bees.' Blind taste tests conducted here and in Massachusetts have borne out customers' claims that the city honey is better than the country variety.

Mr Graves sees several reasons for the superior quality. Above all, he says, it is the climate, the early spring and the lingering summer. And what the bees have in the city is what humans flee it for - "they are not stressed". For one, they have easy access to water here. Moreover, Mr

Graves says, they benefit from the sheer variety of flowers. "There are so many parks in New York, plus people seem to be planting everywhere." His bees will travel up to five miles from the hive for nectar, giving them a search area full of treasure, whether in potted gardens on hidden patios or across the East River in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

He has had the occasional problem. When the buzz of the bees on the West Side balcony came to the notice of the building's owners, the old lady was forced to return the hive. Some customers still wonder about pollutants in the honey. But they worry needlessly, he says.

"The bees find nectar deep in the blossoms and they are not on them long enough to pick up any pollutants," he insists. Moreover, no farming in the city means no pesticides. "I'd be much more worried putting a hive next to an orchard in the Berkshires, where they'd be spraying than on a roof here."

As for the rats, he runs like hell when he sees them. But why should the bees care?

DAVID USBORNE

### IN BRIEF

#### Czech priest's jail term increased

AN APPEALS court in east Bohemia in the Czech Republic has found a Catholic priest guilty of sexual abuse of three boys and sentenced him to four years in prison. Pavel Smekal, 39, was sentenced already in June to three years in jail. He appealed the verdict, but the court in Hradec Kralove, 62 miles east of Prague, raised the previous sentence by one year yesterday.

#### Islamist faces incitement charges

TURKEY'S TOP prosecutor yesterday called for fresh charges to be brought against the popular Islamist mayor of Istanbul, already sentenced to 10 months in jail for sedition. The prosecutor, Vural Savas, recommended that Mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan be tried for inciting his supporters to violence after the appeals court upheld the 10-month sentence against him last week. Turkey's secularist prosecutors have launched a legal assault on leading Islamists since the government they led collapsed last year.

#### Hutu attack kills 14 in Burundi

HUTU REBELS killed 14 people, including eight who were burned to death, in two separate weekend attacks just south of Burundi's capital Bujumbura, officials said yesterday. The administrator of the Kanyosha commune, nine miles south of Bujumbura, said rebels burned alive eight people in an attack on Saturday night, and killed another six people in his commune or province on Sunday. Two of the victims were local government officials, officials said.

#### Attempt to heal Orthodox schism

THE HEADS of the world's Orthodox churches are to meet in Sofia this week to try to mend a schism among the Bulgarian clergy. Bulgaria's Orthodox Church is split into supporters of Patriarch Maxim, and a rebel group who say Maxim was appointed in 1971 by the communist dictator Todor Zhivkov. They enthroned a rival patriarch, Pimen, in July 1996.

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virgin atlantic

July 1st 1998





# Good news for London could be bad

**GOOD NEWS.** London has consolidated and improved on its position as the world's leading international financial centre. **Bad news.** As a result, it is going to be hit much worse by the present contraction in global capital markets.

New figures from the Bank of England show that London is still streets ahead of its rivals in terms of turnover for foreign exchange and over-the-counter derivatives.

In foreign exchange, for example, the UK market's average daily turnover of \$637bn was more than the next three competitors combined. In over-the-counter derivatives, London's daily average trade of \$17bn is almost twice as much as the US figure. And London's growth rate in these complicated instruments is also mind-boggling - a thumping 131 per cent over the last three years. This figure is only bettered by the Germans with 162 per cent and the Swiss with a huge 256 per cent increase, but they are coming at it from a much lower base.

All this is very heartening, as well as being an apparent vindication of



## OUTLOOK

the belief that London is now so far ahead of its rivals in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan that it cannot be caught. The trouble is that these figures were compiled in April. Since then the world has moved on a touch.

JON CORZINE, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, has plainly lost the battle, but he has also lost the war? Mr Corzine has spent several years attempting to persuade his fellow partners that the future for the world's best known investment bank lay in a publicly quoted company rather than an old-style partnership. Eventually a convincing majority agreed with him, but they did so late to make it happen. By the time they'd made up their minds to sell, nobody wanted to buy.

As always in such circumstances, it proved difficult for senior partners to admit this. As it happens, Goldman Sachs is less up its own what's than many of its peers in investment banking; its people are

as savvy and switched on a breed as it is possible to find. But even so, they are not used to failure and the realisation that they had their timing so badly wrong has been a humiliating one.

None of this means that Goldman Sachs is flawed in its strategy of flotation, or that the plan is now buried for good. Indeed, if Goldman Sachs is going to prosper, grow and consolidate its position in the next upturn, it has to float. As for the present business cycle, Goldman Sachs has obviously missed its chance, but had things now look like this is not the end of capitalism, or global capital markets.

The immediate outlook is rocky, but ultimately the experience will prove a cathartic one. Capital markets will emerge strengthened and rejuvenated, and when they do, the opportunities for investment banks - in terms of reorganising global industries, savings, international trade and restructuring emerging economies - will be as rich and varied as ever. The most forward-looking businesses are already looking

beyond the present malaise to a time when they can meet that challenge. If Goldman Sachs is going to be up there with Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Travellers, as it presently is, it's going to have to float.

Access to capital is part of the reason, although it is obviously the case that you don't necessarily need your shares to be quoted to obtain capital on favourable terms. Transparency is another. Part of the process of rebirth for capital markets is going to be much greater disclosure. In such a world, an old fashioned and secretive partnership is going to look out of place and out of date.

But most important of all, human nature requires value recognition and the only mechanism we have for assessing it is the market. Most active and sleeping partners at Goldman Sachs want a value put on their stakes, and non partners want a share of the spoils to bind them in. Again, flotation is the only way to achieve this.

The IPO is on the back burner for the time being, but it is a racing certainty that in three to four years' time, Goldman Sachs will indeed be a publicly quoted company.

## Rover

TRUST ROVER to lower the tone on the opening day of the Paris Motor Show. Renault and Michelin may be celebrating their centenaries and Porsche its half century but the mood over at BMW Rover's German owners, was anything but festive.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, the unassuming chairman of BMW, has every reason to be grim. He bought Rover in a haze of sentimental attachment to its illustrious predecessors the Wolseley and Riley, but quickly discovered that the current model is not in quite the same league.

The R75 - the successor to the uninspired 600-800 series - is Rover's next great hope and goes on show in Birmingham in three weeks' time. But as luxury executive saloons go, it will be a pale imitation of the real thing, the latest Mercedes S-class, which is also getting its first outing in Paris.

Four-and-a-half years on, all BMW has to show for its £4bn of investment in Rover is mounting losses of perhaps as much as £500m this year and a faint hope that its purchase will turn the corner some time in the millennium with the aid of a revamped version of a 40-year old car, the Mini.

Meanwhile, the Rover workforce is being fed on a diet of bad news, with more cutbacks due in the next fortnight on top of the 1,500 job losses and four-day week announced in July. Amid the wreckage, the one consolation for Mr Pischetsrieder is the performance of Land-Rover. But at some point his shareholders have to ask whether BMW might not have spent their money better building its own entry into the 4x4 market from scratch.

It is hardly time yet to press the panic button, and BMW remains a highly profitable brand. But with the millstone of Rover around his neck, Volkswagen's Ferdinand Piech knocking at his door, and Daimler married to Chrysler, Mr Pischetsrieder must be starting to feel the heat.

## China cracks down on currency flow

**CHINA IS** bolstering its currency by ordering mainland companies to remit all foreign currency earnings held abroad to China by tomorrow.

The move is part of a crackdown on foreign exchange abuses that are putting pressure on the Chinese yuan.

Wu Xiaoling, director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said yesterday that foreign currency fraud and "disorderly capital flow" had increased this year prompted by "psychological expectations" of a devaluation of the yuan.

The government in Peking is standing firm that there will be no devaluation this year, but Chinese companies and individuals have been increasingly keen to hoard dollars. It has always been illegal for Chinese firms to hold foreign earnings abroad, but previously this has not been a big issue.

Ms Wu also revealed yesterday that private foreign exchange holdings inside China had reached about \$80bn, compared with the government's forex reserves of \$140bn.

The rest of the world will support any moves to shore up the Chinese yuan, whose stability is seen as a lynch-pin in preventing further economic turmoil in Asia. Ms Wu reaffirmed yesterday that the economic fundamentals did not support the need for a devaluation, and that "devaluing the yuan will bring more disadvantages than advantages". However, she added:

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

"No one can promise whether a currency will devalue or not."

China's economy and rate of export growth have both suffered because of the crisis in Asia, but the trade surplus for the first eight months of 1998 was still US\$31.4bn.

Yesterday's crackdown was aimed at businesses, not individuals, and may inconvenience foreign-invested enterprises in China as trade documents for customs declaration forms above \$100,000 are scrutinised for irregularities. The Chinese yuan is convertible on the current but not the capital account, so trade deals are a means to circumvent currency controls.

Ms Wu said that "billions" of US dollars of false customs declaration forms had already been discovered, as people used false import documents to obtain foreign currency. "It is not beneficial to a country's economy if it is under attack by illegal capital flow," she said.

Ms Wu's measures are aimed at defensive moves by Chinese companies, who fear a devaluation. These include paying for imports in advance, delaying taking payment for export earnings, and paying off foreign loans early. Inside China, the yuan has been weakening on the resurgent black market, with up to 9 yuan to the US dollar in the south, compared with 8.28 for trade transactions.

## IN BRIEF

### Logica with £15m Shell contract

LOGICA, the fast-growing information technology consultancy, has won a major £15m computer support contract with Shell's UK exploration and production arm. Under the five-year deal - due to be announced today - Logica will take responsibility for maintaining and supporting all of Shell's computer applications, both onshore and offshore. The agreement brings 60 different contracts within Shell under Logica's control.

### British Land buys City landmark

BRITISH LAND is buying the headquarters building of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, famous for its marble decor, for £206m. The building at One Exchange Square, Bishopsgate, was previously owned by DGI, the management company for Deutsche Bank's Open Ended Property Fund.

### Amstrad blames digital TV

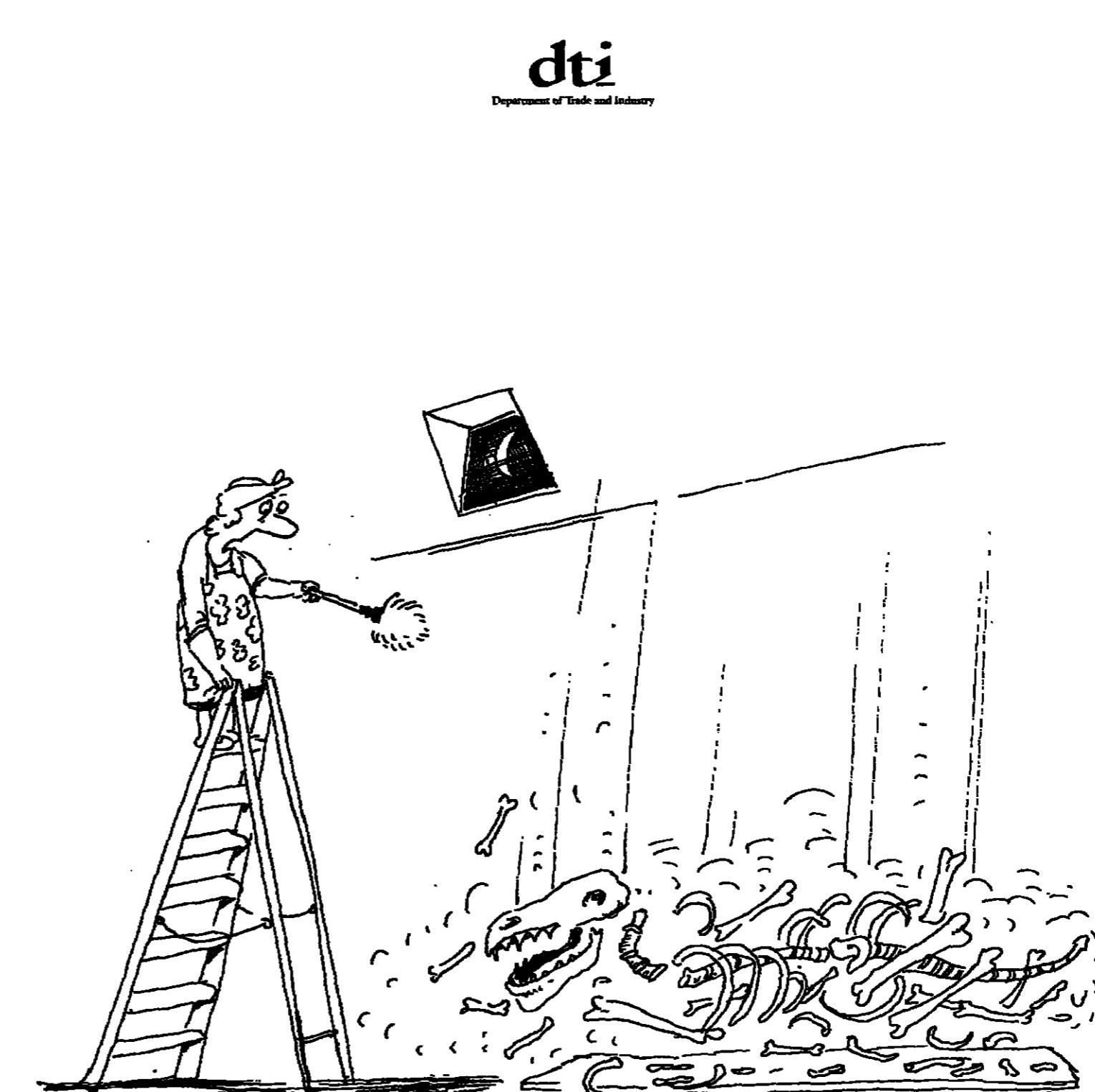
AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics firm where Alan Sugar is chairman, yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £1.14m for the year to June as it invested heavily in new product development. Finance director Martin Bland said the loss reflected a £1m investment in developing digital set-top box decoders for British Sky Broadcasting and other telecoms products, both of which go on sale shortly.

### Levi Strauss closes jeans plants

LEVI STRAUSS is to close three plants in Belgium and one in France due to production overcapacity and high costs. The American jeans giant, which has begun talks with the works committees of the plants involved (as required under European Union rules), said it had not decided how many jobs would go. Two plants in Texas will also close. It has already closed 10 assembly centres this year.

### Daiwa cuts 50 London jobs

DAIWA SECURITIES, Japan's second-largest brokerage, confirmed it is to cut its overseas workforce to 1,000 from 1,800 by March 2000, as it seeks to focus on Japan, where competition in the brokerage industry is intensifying as a result of the "Big Bang" financial reforms. Fifty jobs are to go in London and it will close 12 of its 30 overseas offices to reduce annual overseas operating costs by 43 per cent. Daiwa Europe also said it planned to pull out of all non-yen denominated fixed-income activities apart from sales to Japanese clients.



## Nobody profits from working too many hours.

Everybody knows a motivated and alert workforce produces the best work. When people work too many hours accidents happen, mistakes are made and nobody profits. October 1st sees the introduction of the new Working Time Regulations designed to help businesses be more productive. The Regulations represent fair minimum standards, while allowing flexibility for workers and employers to make arrangements which suit them. For further information about how these Regulations may affect you, call the Workright information line on (local rate) 0845 6000 925. Alternatively visit our website at [www.dti.gov.uk/workright](http://www.dti.gov.uk/workright) or fill in the coupon below. Similar but separate rules will apply in Northern Ireland.

For more information, fill in the coupon and return it to this address: Working Time Information, PO Box 66, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7Q8. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

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Global Fund Managers									
Growth									
Global Cos	182.50	169.00	-1.50	0.00	3.00				
Growth	78.10	81.00	-0.13	0.00	3.00				
Growth	171.70	171.30	-0.70	0.00	3.00				
Growth	357.70	373.60	-3.10	0.00	3.00				
Growth	370.80	367.00	-3.20	0.00	3.00				
Growth	68.82	69.71	0.89	0.00	3.00				
Growth	128.10	133.00	2.20	0.47	3.00				
Growth	128.00	144.00	1.80	0.47	3.00				
Growth	20.40	31.41	0.05	0.78	3.00				
Growth	52.22	54.54	1.85	0.00	3.00				
Growth	56.56	59.30	0.81	0.00	3.00				
Growth	55.71	57.61	1.90	0.00	3.00				
Growth	86.33	85.11	-0.32	2.31	3.00				
Growth	50.50	61.16	1.66	0.40	3.00				
Growth	52.30	53.92	-0.61	0.05	3.00				
Growth	72.97	74.49	0.52	0.00	3.00				
Growth	74.48	77.50	0.48	0.00	3.00				
Growth	18.47	17.17	-0.27	0.00	3.00				
Growth	16.47	17.17	0.27	0.00	3.00				
Growth	17.40	16.16	-0.17	0.00	3.00				
Growth	55.77	100.02	0.24	1.26	3.00				
Growth	100.10	104.50	0.20	1.26	3.00				
Growth	102.70	102.70	0.60	0.42	3.00				
Growth	132.40	138.23	0.91	1.13	3.00				
Growth	139.30	145.60	-0.50	1.50	3.00				
Growth	165.60	110.50	0.80	4.36	3.00				
Growth	78.76	81.00	0.44	1.46	3.00				
Growth	41.70	47.80	0.30	3.23	3.00				
Growth	42.11	43.98	-0.88	2.28	3.00				
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News analysis: The near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management has tarnished the image of hedge funds

# Defending a sinking reputation

NOT ALL hedge funds are highly leveraged monsters lurking out of control.

Although most of them have been hit by the global financial crisis, 13 of the top 20 funds, including some of the biggest, are still showing gains - this is a year when a fund manager investing in UK or US stocks would have seen all their gains wiped had they performed in line with their respective indices.

Some hedge funds, such as Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund, which takes big bets on global market trends, are actually ahead on the year, and faring better than conventional fund managers.

Mr Robertson is up 30 per cent in the year to August and still 19 per cent ahead today.

PDF, a smaller fund run by the little-known Peter Putron in London, which took out sell options in Dresdner Bank shares, has performed particularly well. Dresdner lost badly as a result of Long Term Capital Management's crisis and its shares fell sharply.

While there are fears that some hedge funds are close to collapse,

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

senior bankers involved in the Long Term Capital Management bail-out say they are too small to wreak the havoc that Long Term Capital Management would have done had it gone down.

Blair Tomlinson, a former bond dealer now observing from the sidelines at London-based consultancy Financial Risk, says: "Hedge funds, as a group, do not pose a systemic threat. There is no one out there who compares in size or leverage to Long Term Capital Management."

But even he admits: "That does not mean somebody out there won't go up."

Paul Tudor Jones, the manager and former cotton futures trader who has done relatively well, finds it irritating to see all hedge funds tarred with the same brush.

Likewise Warren Mosler, who runs his III Opportunities stable of funds from West Palm Beach in Florida, has accused banks of actively trying to close him down.

But if hedge fund managers



While Long-Term Capital Management may be seeing its losses scattered across the dealing room floor, 13 out of the top 20 hedge funds are still showing gains

complain they are misunderstood because they have only themselves to blame.

George Soros, the well-known hedge fund manager, famously told a Senate committee that regulators had no right to poke their nose in a business that clearly was not designed for widows and orphans.

There are three main types of hedge funds:

- Equity long-short: not unlike conventional stock-picking fund managers except that they short stocks they don't like as well as buying ones they do, and seek to balance their bets overall. Some of these have done well this year although whether that is sustainable

in a long-term bear market is a moot point.

- Speculators (often called global): these tend to be governed by the manager's view of global political developments and are more sensitive to political upsets such as changes in government.

They tend to invest in instruments such as currencies and

HEDGE FUND PERFORMANCE				
Hedge Funds aggregated	Assets \$bn	August returns	Yr to date returns	Fund type
Tiger Management	15.136	1.01	30.77	Global Macro
Soros Asset Mgt	13.599	-13.11	0.93	Global
Moore Global Investment	4.000	-2.75	18.62	Global Macro
Zweig-Dimenna Ind	2.603	-22.59	-1.10	Global
Everest Capital	2.500	-44.44	-53.78	Global
III Fund	2.418	-1.57	2.15	Market neutral
Ainslie LP	2.350	-9.19	10.93	Global
Stone Robinson Investm Mgt	2.099	-3.79	-6.41	Global
Perry Partners	2.076	-6.39	3.19	Event driven
CDC Investment Mgt Corp	1.786	0.43	5.43	Market neutral
Cooperman	1.754	-20.09	-14.01	Global Macro
Swiss Bank Corp	1.499	-2.31	-5.40	Global Macro
Orbis Global Equity	1.489	-4.46	8.26	Global
Highbridge Capital Corp	1.358	-5.54	1.29	Market neutral
Rosenberg Mkt Neutral Strat	1.214	4.59	6.91	Market neutral
Appaloosa Investment	1.162	-27.55	-20.94	Event driven
Alliance Capital Mgt	1.101	-13.56	0.22	Global
Ellington Composite	1.072	1.06	3.46	Market neutral
Spectrum Asset Mgt	1.070	-0.59	1.03	Market neutral
Halcyon/Alain Stora Mgt	1.037	-4.52	5.57	Event driven

Source: Managed Account Research

bonds. This "trust me I know what I am doing school" is best exemplified by Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund and George Soros. Investors are invited to follow the cult.

● Market neutral: so-called because they aim to make money irrespective of the general market movement by exploiting discrepancies between markets.

Long-Term Capital Management was the biggest in the game. Its specialty was arbitrage of large holdings of fixed-income bonds. It was also the most highly leveraged of all the funds. Not surprisingly highly-leveraged fixed-income specialists are the ones most seriously at risk.

What attracts many of the brightest fund managers to hedge funds is the freedom to borrow what they like, trade what they like, and even wear what they like. Open-necked shirts are the rule. They tend to invest in instruments such as currencies and

there for a reason. Managers often say one thing and do another.

Hedge fund manager John Meriwether was notorious for not telling his investors what he was doing with their money.

As one wealthy individual who declined the offer to put the minimum stake of \$100m into Meriwether's care says: "What scares me is that these people charge you 20 per cent if they make profits and give you nothing back when they lose money."

Bond funds played the US stock market earlier this year and almost everyone played the yen carry game whereby you borrow cheap yen to buy high yielding bonds elsewhere. But the big danger is not so much gearing as hubris. "People forget that in the last downturn Goldman Sachs saw its capital wiped out. These guys are only as good as their last deal. But they all have the capacity of not living up to their reputation."

## Chiroscience shares soar on gene finding

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHARES IN Chiroscience soared almost 7 per cent yesterday after the biotechnology group announced the discovery of a gene that could lead to the development of treatments for cancer, AIDS and arthritis.

The company said it had isolated a gene that regulates the body's immune response to a number of viruses. Controlling the gene, which was discovered in mice, would enable scientists to boost the body's defenses against a number of diseases, the company added.

Robert Jackson, director of research at Chiroscience, said: "This gene is a virtual on/off switch for the immune system and, depending on the disease, there are times when we need to turn the system off and times when we need to turn it on."

affects millions of women.

John Padfield, the company's chief executive, said the scientists were "three months away" from isolating the gene. The discovery could lead to the development of a drug that reverses the bone wasting caused by osteoporosis. "There is nothing on the market that increases bone density," Mr Padfield said.

Chiroscience also announced progress on a needle-free anaesthetic being jointly developed with fellow biotech firm Powderject Pharmaceuticals.

The announcements pushed the shares up 16.5p to 264p.

Researchers at the company's US subsidiary have also identified a gene that could increase bone density in patients suffering from osteoporosis - a painful bone-eating disease that

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Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Amstrad (F)	53.3m (43.1m)	-1.36m (1.62m)	-1.33p (2.12p)	0.5p (0.5p)	4/12/98	05/10/98
AB Bard (F)	56.5m (57.0m)	1.29m (7.07m)	29.29p (C2.32p)	7.09 (4.0p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Barclays (F)	5.23m (5.23m)	0.23m (0.23m)	0.23p (0.23p)	-	1/11/98	-
Boyle (I)	9.1m (9.3m)	0.32m (0.32m)	0.72p (1.25p)	0.25p (0.25p)	01/12/98	26/10/98
Charnwood Concrete (F)	6.1m (5.0m)	1.381m (1.023m)	1.4p (0.76p)	0.34p (0.23p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Chilean Cables (I)	38.4m (19.0m)	4.028m (1.693m)	2.2p (1.9p)	0.70p (0.65p)	18/11/98	05/10/98
Cobham (I)	17.6m (15.1m)	30.0m (24.9m)	21.5p (18.2p)	4.65p (4.05p)	17/12/98	09/11/98
Comcast (F)	50.6m (50.8m)	2.02m (1.92m)	2.02p (1.92p)	-	1/11/98	-
Concordia Coal (F)	6.8m (3.7m)	55.02m (-4.57m)	-0.10p (0.21p)	-	1/11/98	-
Dormont Valley (I)	- (-)	3.8m (5.0m)	7.02p (5.21p)	2.20p (2.25p)	09/11/98	19/10/98
Friends Ivory & Stein (S)	17.4m (10.2m)	4.37p (3.57m)	4.37p (3.57p)	3.0p (2.65p)	15/10/98	05/10/98
Gowforth (I)	318.9m (324.6m)	31.5m (11.1m)	8.8p (1.3p)	0.30p (0.30p)	10/12/98	05/10/98
Interstate Hotels Cap. Trust (I)	42.4m (45.0m)	1.00m (0.95m)	2.01p (1.95p)	0.50p (0.50p)	01/12/98	05/10/98
S Llyod (F)	- (-)	2.54m (0.25m)	2.54p (1.78p)	0.35p (0.35p)	02/11/98	-
Marylebone Warwick (F)	81.1m (19.5m)	0.81m (0.50m)	10.50p (6.25p)	3.0p (2.25p)	04/01/99	30/11/98
Mother Group (I)	5.1m (4.5m)	1.00m (0.70m)	6.80p (4.75p)	0.10p (-)	1/11/98	-
National Health (I)	7.5m (7.5m)	7.5m (7.5m)	7.50p (7.50p)	0.00p (0.00p)	02/11/98	-
Novartis (F)	57.5m (34.7m)	4.1m (6.52m)	0.06 (5.1p)	5.75p (3.00p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Octopus (F)	20.4p (72.8m)	-0.46p (-0.25m)	2.25p (-3.55p)	0.75p (0.50p)	01/12/98	12/10/98
OS Group (I)	26.1m (25.8m)	3.68p (7.45p)	3.68p (2.55p)	0.45p (0.45p)	25/11/98	12/10/98
Radland Trust (I)	- (-)	1.00m (0.95m)	2.00p (1.00p)	0.00p (0.00p)	05/10/98	-
United American (I)	- (-)	1.00m (0.95m)	2.00p (1.00p)	0.00p (0.00p)	05/10/98	-
West Germany (I)	106.1m (139.5m)	-29.7m (-5.6m)	30.50p (-17.5p)	0.10p (0.05p)	1/11/98	-
Westsafe Marine (I)	50.4m (50.5m)	4.560m (5.465m)	15.70p (15.00p)	4.40p (4.40p)	20/11/98	05/10/98
George Wimpey (F)	595.8m (528.7m)	25.0m (12.3m)	4.85p (2.33p)	2.07p (2.0p)	20/11/98	05/10/98

(F) - float (I) - interim (S) - Nine Month EPS is pre-exceptional

\*Dividend to be paid as a PD

This formal notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of and has been approved by London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). This formal notice should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated 29 September, 1998 which contains details of Exeter Enhanced Income Fund Limited and the Ordinary Shares being offered.						



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# C&W shows that mobiles can shine

IT'S GOOD to talk - at least when the mobile phone industry is the subject of debate. Just 24 hours after the stock market seemed intent on disconnecting cellular radio shares, there was a rush to buy Cable & Wireless, the One-2-One group.

The shares jumped 34p to 584p after an upbeat investment presentation which will almost certainly prompt analysts to lift their profit estimates.

On Monday mobile phone shares were hit by worries that the industry regulator intended to probe the business and was set to adopt a much tougher line on competition.

Even the Oftel involvement was dismissed as the stock market had second thoughts and analysts made positive noises. Investment house BT Alex Brown said it would use any weakness as a buying opportunity and suggested the industry would show record growth adding more than 850,000 subscribers in the normally quiet summer period.

The investment house likes BT, Orange and Vodafone and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson backed Orange, suggesting a 740p price (unchanged at 567p).

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

ries still buzzed around that BT, which has the controlling 60 per cent of Cellnet, was near to clinching the Securicor stake.

The rest of the stock market tended to be cautious ahead of the US interest-rate decision. Footsie, at one time down 50 points, managed a modest 15.2 gain to 5,108.7 at the close and the mid cap rose 9 to 4,562. But there was, once again, absolutely no joy for small cap companies. Their index slumped a further 6.7, pushing it below 2,000 points for the first time since January 1996. Footsie managed to edge ahead despite another round of cautious comments from analysts.

Engineer Siebe was an exception. The shares gained 9p to 198p after Lehman Brothers said double-digit earnings growth was set to continue and the shares were up to 40 per cent undervalued.

British American Tobacco, British Steel and Pilkington were among shares to get the red pencil treatment from analysts.

Reuters, due to meet analysts after the market closed, fell 12p to 500p and Safeway, the supermarket chain, was cut 12.5p to 323.5p.

a two-year low, on worries a downbeat trading statement could materialise.

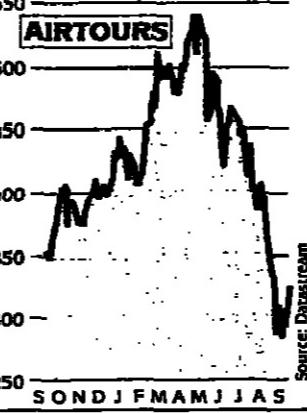
Diageo, the spirits giant which has been weak, improved 43.5p to 547p on hopes of a US interest rate

SHARES OF TBL the property and airports group, climbed 5.5p (after 8p) to 38.5p in busy trading; their peak, hit in June, is 125.5p. Proposed analyst meeting are thought to be responsible for the share strength. The group, formerly Markheath Securities, is thought to be intent on taking analysts to three of its airports, including its Florida operation. In June TBL paid £17m for Skavsta airport, near Stockholm.

cut. The shares have slumped from 77.5p since July. Bass, another drinks group to suffer a hangover, recovered 25p to 704p with Morgan Stanley making positive noises.

Losses at Coca-Cola Beverages subdivided the shares 21.5p to 134p.

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datastream

profits estimates. The stockbroker is looking for £38.5m, down from £41.7m, for the year just ending and for £42.5m (£45.1m) for next year. The shares fell 18p to 465p.

Oil giant Shell remained under

row, flew 3p higher to 47p and Chiswick improved 16.5p to 36.5p on the discovery of a gene which could help the body's immune system.

Profit warnings continued to flow. Feedback, an electronics group, firmed 7p to 13p as it warned of a loss and electrical group Bulgin lost 7.5p to 50p after saying it may not break even in its second six months. But Christie, the estate agent, rose 4.5p to 50p with comments that profits were "well ahead" of last year.

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges hit a new low, off 25.5p to 220p. Greenalls' downbeat trading statement did the latest damage to Yates shares, which were 55.5p earlier this year.

Car Group, the stricken second-hand car dealer, managed to halt its reverse, recovering a token 0.25p to 2.25p; doubts about its refinancing remain. Hopes of a reverse takeover at Superframe, the retail display group, put a further 1.5p on the shares at 19p.

SEAO VOLUME: 970.2 million  
SEAO TRADES: 56,417  
GILT INDEX: n/a

# CCB finds the rouble dents 'the real thing'

## INVESTMENT

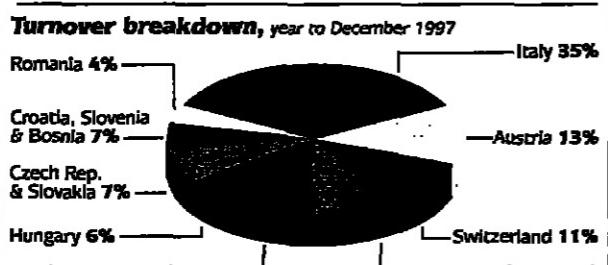
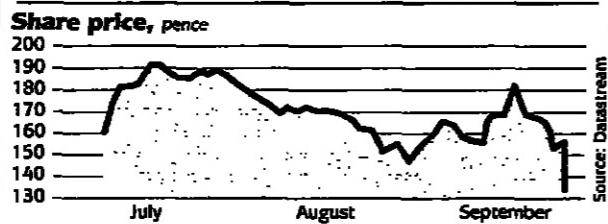
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

### COCA COLA BEVERAGES: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.43bn, share price 134 (-21.5p)

	1997*	1997*	1998
Turnover (£m)	1,203	609	570
Pre-tax profits (£m)	1.89	12.6	(2.0)
Earnings per share (p)	(0.4)	0.80	(0.74)
Dividends per share (p)	-	-	-

\*Pro forma prior to flotation



### Cobham flies above its sector

Sales of Cobham's revolutionary air-spindlers - which use air as a lubricant for higher speed - slumped as its manufacturing customers were hit by the Asian crisis.

This will affect negatively the division's profits in 1998 and beyond, and prompted trimming of analysts' forecast.

Those that remained in

Bacardi and Cokes at the same

rate, and the average spend in

Northern looks a decent bet in

the leisure sector.

The shares are down

sharply from their near 300p

peak in March, but rose 6p to

102p yesterday.

On a forward multiple of

just nine they are worth a spin

on the dance floor.

shares into freefall in the last 12 months. They rose 6.5p to 605p yesterday, but they are still half of what they were in May.

Profit forecasts of £62.5m put the shares on nearly 14 times expected earnings. A premium to the sector, but a deserved one. Buy.

### Northern is worth a spin

THERE MAY be a slowdown in consumer spending but Northern Leisure is still bullish. The nightclub operator is keeping up its opening programme.

The reason, it says, is that when you are in Northern's key target market of 18-25 year-olds, "you don't stay home on a Saturday night with Mummy".

This may be true, but during the summer months they didn't go to Northern's discos either. Like-for-like sales dipped alarmingly in June and remained in negative territory in July and August, albeit on a recovering trend.

Northern blames the slump on the strong pound which it says tempted more youngsters to save up for a foreign holiday.

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Photo News Service

# Levene groomed well

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Bankers Trust: "I told them when they offered me the job that I was likely to be elected Mayor."

The former efficiency adviser to John Major admits that there are big challenges to come, such as the advent of EMU and the introduction of a new Mayor of London.

Lord Levene's pursuit of the mayoralty began when he became an Alderman in 1984. He was groomed for the top job after becoming a Sheriff in 1995.

He couldn't have picked a more eventful time to start the Mayoralty on 13 November. He only got his feet under the desk as Banker's Trust a fortnight ago, just as the American investment bank was being hit by the combined blasts of the Russian debacle, the Asian stamp and the collapse of Long Term Capital Management, the hedge fund which Banker's Trust had a stake in.

Full-year profits were up an impressive 65 per cent to £4.1m and should rise to 220m this year. With 16 new clubs opened last year and with a good geographic spread, Northern looks a decent bet in the leisure sector.

The shares are down sharply from their near 300p peak in March, but rose 6p to 102p yesterday.

On a forward multiple of just nine they are worth a spin on the dance floor.

The book, "Florence Nightingale: Avenging Angel" by Hugh Small, adds: "In 1858 London was visited by a man-made calamity known as the Great Stink, when the River Thames proved quite incapable of removing the vast quantity of horrors poured into it."

"The smell was so bad near the river that railway travellers leaving London Bridge station were seized by attacks of vomiting."

The former efficiency adviser to John Major admits that there are big challenges to come, such as the advent of EMU and the introduction of a new Mayor of London.

As for the new Mayor, Lord Levene said: "There will be confusion about the similar names, but we will be doing different jobs. I'm promoting financial services, the other one will be running a massive chunk of geography."

AT LEAST the streets of Lord Levene's City are a cleaner, more civilised place than they were during previous centuries. According to a lively and controversial biography of Florence Nightingale published this month: "In 1855 there were 26 cowsheds in the square mile alone, and 266 cows."

Mr Cole certainly has his work cut out. Elementis's shares have halved since May, reaching a 52-week low of 80.5p yesterday, down 0.5p. They're not alone in that, however, as Mr Fry points out.

On a different note, Mr Fry is also a member of the MCC. How did he feel? I asked him, about the historic vote on Monday to lift the 211-year-old ban on women members?

"I voted against, last night, but I accept the democratic view of the majority," said Mr Fry.

Would this discourage him from attending Lords as often as he used to, I asked? "I very much doubt it," he urbanely replied.

A LEAGUE TABLE ranking countries by how corrupt they are has caused quite a rumpus since it was published last week by the German consultancy Transparency International.

Latin Americans, however, reacted with rather more world-weary resignation to the findings than most. Apparently in Paraguay, which was listed as the second most corrupt country in the world, "it is considered normal to own a car that was stolen in Brazil or Argentina," according to Reuters in Buenos Aires.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000	1.0000	0.9868	0.5869	0.5868	0.5868	0.3986
Australia	2.0568	2.0481	1.6781	1.6781	1.6781	1.6781	1.6781
Austria	0.6114	0.6114	0.6074	0.6074	0.6074	0.6074	0.6074
Belgium	58.977	58.784	58.405	34.550	34.550	34.550	7.0350
Canada	2.5628	2.5585	2.5502	1.5013	1.5013	1.5013	0.8854
Denmark	1.4518	1.4476	1.4400	1.7581	1.7570	1.7570	1.7570
ECU	8.7031	8.6737	8.6537	9.533	9.533	9.533	9.533
Finland	2.5921	2.5874	2.5837	1.1717	1.1717	1.1717	1.1717
France	2.3591	2.3547	2.3517	1.1717	1.1717	1.1717	1.1717
Greece	492.76	494.84	498.25	188.67	190.42	193.97	14
Hong Kong	13.2728	13.225	13.254	7.7490	7.7615	7.7640	4.6235
Ireland	1.1424	1.1424	1.1400	1.1400	1.1400	1.1400	1.1400
Italy	228.72	227.29	224.48	133.99	1		

High	Low	Stock	Price	Cdg	Vbl	P/E	Code
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b> 7.602%							
494 388 Allard Breweries	418.2	3.2	100.0	1.0	1.0	10.0	
495 395 Belvoir Distillers	300.0	0.0	63.1	1.15	1.15	1.15	
496 396 Bluebell Distillers	111.0	0.0	33.4	4.62	4.62	4.62	
497 397 Caledonian	474.5	0.5	43.5	4.43	4.43	4.43	
498 398 Chivas Brothers	790.0	1.7	22.2	17.9	17.9	17.9	
499 399 Highball Distillers	200.0	0.0	19.9	1.58	1.58	1.58	
500 400 Northern Distillers	130.0	0.0	13.5	4.15	4.15	4.15	
<b>ANKERS</b>							
501 401 75 Abbey Vale	1050.0	-0.10	10.0	15.5	12.12	12.12	
502 402 87 Allens Lloyds	801.5	-0.10	19.0	20.0	19.0	19.0	
503 403 96 Balfour Beatty	1023.0	-0.10	13.5	13.5	12.0	12.0	
504 404 98 Bell & Ford	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
505 405 99 Black & Decker	1065.0	-0.10	19.0	20.0	19.0	19.0	
506 406 100 Bovis	778.0	-0.10	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	
507 407 101 British BREWERY	100.0	-0.10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
508 408 102 Cadbury	560.0	-0.10	45.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	
509 409 103 Castle	645.0	-0.10	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	
510 410 104 Chivas Bros	300.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
511 411 105 Colgate	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
512 412 106 Daimler-Benz	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
513 413 107 Durex	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
514 414 108 Fisons	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
515 415 109 GEC	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
516 416 110 Glaxo	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
517 417 111 Heublein	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
518 418 112 Imperial Distillers	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
519 419 113 Marks & Spencer	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
520 420 114 Nestle	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
521 421 115 P&G	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
522 422 116 Rowntree	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
523 423 117 Sime Darby	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
524 424 118 Unilever	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
525 425 119 Vicks	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
526 426 120 Wills	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
527 427 121 Wm Morrison	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
528 428 122 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
529 429 123 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
530 430 124 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
531 431 125 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
532 432 126 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
533 433 127 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
534 434 128 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
535 435 129 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
536 436 130 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
537 437 131 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
538 438 132 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
539 439 133 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
540 440 134 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
541 441 135 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
542 442 136 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
543 443 137 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
544 444 138 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
545 445 139 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
546 446 140 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
547 447 141 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
548 448 142 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
549 449 143 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
550 450 144 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
551 451 145 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
552 452 146 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
553 453 147 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
554 454 148 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
555 455 149 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
556 456 150 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
557 457 151 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
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566 466 160 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
567 467 161 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
568 468 162 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
569 469 163 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
570 470 164 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
571 471 165 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
572 472 166 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
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575 475 169 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
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580 480 174 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
581 481 175 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	
582 482 176 Wm Wrigley	1050.0	-0.10	15.0	1			



# Henman profits from failure

TENNIS

By JOHN ROBERTS

in Munich

ADMITTING THAT he might have been better staying away from the \$5.7m (£4.2m) Compaq Grand Slam Cup than performing below par, Tim Henman apologised to the organisers before leaving with \$100,000 as a first-round loser last night. He will take a few days' rest before resuming ATP Tour duty in Basle next week.

Leading Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, 5-1, in the first set after only 17 minutes, the British No 1 was unable to take any of three set points. Twenty minutes later, Bjorkman took the set, 7-5.

Bjorkman - who like Henman, served his country handsomely in the Davis Cup last weekend - continued to whittle away at the Briton's resistance. Henman saved two break points in the third game of the second set and four more in the fifth game before Bjorkman cracked him with a forehand return for 3-2, going on to win, 7-5, 6-4, after 72 minutes.

"It feels like I've been playing week after week," said Henman, who has spent only one full day at home since 20 July. "Yes, there is quite a lot of money at stake, but maybe I realise now that isn't the most important thing, and perhaps that doesn't mean quite as much as it used to."

Henman would have won an extra \$75,000 for beating Bjorkman and reaching the quarter-finals. The semi-finalists each receive \$125,000, the runner-up \$65,000, and the winner \$1.3m. When Henman previously qualified for the Grand Slam Cup in 1996, he won \$431,250 for playing three matches, losing to Boris Becker in the semi-finals.

There are no world ranking points at stake at the Grand Slam Cup, an indoor final to the four major championships, only money. Before accepting the invitation to Munich, Henman emphasised that his priority was to qualify for the ATP Tour



Tim Henman shows the strain on the way to a 7-5, 6-4 defeat against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich yesterday

AP

Championship in Hannover next month. The eight places are decided on the year's ranking and, Henman is currently No 8 in the race.

Asked if it might have been wiser to have turned down the Grand Slam Cup, Henman said: "I think that could be a fair assumption. You learn from your mistakes." Having helped Britain win promotion to the Davis Cup World Group with a 3-2 victory against India, Henman said he did not intend to

put any pressure on himself in Munich, which he regarded as "a bonus week".

His relaxed tennis paid dividends at the start of the match against Bjorkman, who had won the last two of their three previous contests. "I played pretty well to go up 5-1," Henman said. "I was playing pretty loose tennis, going for my shots. I don't think I was doing anything amazing. I think he was making a lot of mistakes early on. He wasn't making

many first serves. He was missing in the rallies.

"I kept going for my shots at times, but I didn't make quite as many from then on. I don't think my concentration was quite as good as it could have been on some of the bigger points."

Although unable to build himself up for the occasion, Henman expressed faith in the Grand Slam Cup, which started in 1990 as a December event and last year was brought forward to the end of September.

The promoters are hoping to switch to mid-October by 2000.

"I think a place in the calendar needs to be found," Henman said. "I think it's a great tournament. It makes sense with the four Grand Slams; you've got a great opportunity to have a great field. At the moment, it does seem that the calendar is pretty busy. But I think it would be a good idea," he said. "Then there would be one big event instead of the ATP World Championship and this - two tournaments where I think there should perhaps be only one."

Martina Hingis, who marks

her 18th birthday today, became the first woman to win a match at the Grand Slam Cup yesterday, when she defeated Conchita Martinez of Spain, 6-2, 7-5. Although a number of shots were breathtaking and some of the rallies dazzling, cynics might say the match was a throwback to some women's contests of the distant past. There were 13 breaks of serve.

**GRAND SLAM CUP** (Munich): Men's singles, first round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt T Henman (GB) 7-5, 6-4. Women's singles, quarter-final: M Hingis (Switzerland) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-2, 7-5

## Smart's joint challenge of cash and competitiveness

**SCOTT SMART'S** pursuit of a divided sport's most elusive prize appears, on first glance, a perverse ambition bordering on downright obstinacy. Who, after all, would compete in a class so dominated by one mark, Honda, and one man, Michael Doohan? And do so on a machine that struggles to compete in a 500cc grand prix class that, because of a conspicuous recent lack of success by British riders, struggles to find an audience here to rival the hugely popular World Superbikes series?

But maybe that is the very reason why a determined 23-year-old is Britain's lone rider in what, despite the brouhaha generated by Carl Fogarty's successes in World Superbikes, remains motorcycling's blue riband class. The spur of singularity, being the lone man against a seemingly insuperable challenge, is often important to those possessed of a truly competitive nature.

With Smart, however, it runs deeper than that, although the

self-effacing rider from Kent would never suggest it himself. Smart, to his eternal credit, shies away from any pompous notions of family heritage, but one can hardly fail to acknowledge that he is (and he writes whenever the subject is broached) the nephew of Barry Sheene, Britain's last 500cc world champion, who won the title in 1976 and 1977.

Smart's relationship with his famous uncle is strictly a family matter. Although Sheene brought Smart his first bike on his fourth birthday, his brother-in-law Sheene was hurtling to fame and glory in 500cc grands prix on a Suzuki.

While the Millar Honda has struggled to compete with the mega-budget, cutting-edge, one-of-bikes of the works rides of Doohan, Criville, Biaggi et al, Paul's presence and occasional

in a high-risk, high-failure sporting arena.

Paul Smart was quite a racer himself, just ask any Italian rider or pit crew on the grand prix circuit. They hold Paul in eternal affection, mainly as a result of the Briton's venerated victory on a silver Ducati at the 1972 Imola 200. Yet Smart remains a cult figure in bike racing because, in a parallel to today's WSB versus GP schism, he chose to ride in the then more lucrative Formula 750 series in the United States while brother-in-law Sheene was hurtling to fame and glory in 500cc grands prix on a Suzuki.

While the Millar Honda has struggled to compete with the mega-budget, cutting-edge, one-of-bikes of the works rides of Doohan, Criville, Biaggi et al, Paul's presence and occasional

advice have been invaluable to Scott. Paul is no parent from hell, foisting unfulfilled ambitions on a manipulated offspring - far from it.

"He just lets me get on with it," Smart said. "It's much nicer to do it yourself. There's no point in him forcing me to do something that does not come naturally."

Smart, by his own admission, has struggled to coax a competitive ride from his bike this season. To take the relatively easier option of turning instead to the British or World Superbikes series, both of which eclipse GPs in terms of popularity and profile in Britain, would be missing the point, however.

"I always wanted to get into grand prix racing," he said. "We've been struggling with the

bike all year, always feeling like it's going to kill you - it's not so easy."

Yet his season has not been

without its rewards. At the

British Grand Prix, a 10th place

provided a tangible glimpse of

a promising home talent.

"At Donington the tyres and

suspension just gelled and I

knew the track - it's a confidence

thing. Having a bad year knocks

any confidence and doesn't help

your riding. I've always been on

an upward spiral," said Smart,

who took the British 250cc

championship by storm in 1996.

This is his first year in two-

wheeled grands prix where he

competes without pay, relying

on the personal sponsorship of

British firms such as Digi and

Norwood Adam to scrape by.

"Money talks as much as

results do," he lamented on a

ever-widening gulf with the big

Japanese manufacturers' teams of pampered egoists.

While among the leading

privateer riders - a race with a

race involving non-factory pre-

pared twin cylinder and thus

slower bikes - it cannot help a

young man's confidence that

each time Doohan screams

past him and other tail-enders,

the four-times world champion

shakes his head in a gesture of

contempt for those momentarily

blocking his path towards a

fifth world title.

Smart is thick-skinned

enough to ignore the bluf and

the bull; however, his immediate

focus being the next grand

prix in Australia, and equally

daunting challenge of raising

the funds he needs to secure a

competitive ride next season.

"It's really scary establishing

the amount of money I need to

raise £100,000 still doesn't leave

me with anything to live on."

Such strictures means riders must be pragmatic and Smart is not ruling out a move to 250cc next season, where bikes and budgets are on more level terms. "I'd rather be competitive on a 250 than uncompetitive on a 500. Besides, it's more fun to be on a winning bike."

"Still, it was a decent result in Barcelona (he finished a creditable 15th 10 days ago) and it was a big bonus that there were a few riders behind me. It was pretty close and we were not a long way behind the quick boys."

Given the right ride and a few more years experience and a biking dynasty may yet yield a new British hero.

**MIKE TYSON** missed a deadline for submitting psychological reports to boxing authorities in Nevada yesterday upsetting at least one boxing commissioner and further harming his chances of regaining his licence.

Tyson's advisers said that tests at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston took too long and doctors were unable to get the reports together in time for the commission's 5pm deadline on Monday.

Dr Ronald Schouten, head of the team that examined Tyson, sent a letter to the commission's chairman, Dr Elias Ghanem, saying the reports would be completed today. "Unfortunately, due to the length of the evaluation process, the scoring on the psychological and neuropsychological testing have not been completed," Schouten wrote.

The Nevada Athletic Commission meets on Saturday to determine whether Tyson will be able to get back the boxing licence stripped from him for biting Evander Holyfield's ear. "I don't know what is going on, but it is very disappointing," Ghanem said.

The testing had appeared to be the only obstacle but commissioner James Nave now says he wants to hear about Tyson's alleged altercation with two men following a traffic accident in Washington DC before a decision is made.

## Jalabert jibe may lead to ban

CYCLING

"We can not let this pass," Jalabert wanted to put his comments on the table with, but I find his sense of humour intolerable. Comparing people to neo-Nazis, that's not funny and that's going too far," Jalabert has promised to apologise, but has still not done so, Verbruggen added. Any suspension could last between one and six months.

The Festina team might challenge its expulsion from the World Championships. Festina were kicked out of the Tour de France after admitting to using the banned substance EPO. But Festina's lawyers will argue that there should be a presumption of innocence in favour of the cyclists, who have still not appeared before a disciplinary tribunal.

"If Laurent Jalabert doesn't send us a letter of apology before 4 October ... he will be excluded from the World Championships," Verbruggen said.

## SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E15 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### England scrape bottom of barrel

Sir: Following your publication of the averages for the cricket season (22 September) just finished, have England ever taken a team to Australia that included the bowlers who were eighth from bottom and bottom of those averages?

STUART RAWES  
Amersham  
Bucks

County champs?  
County chumps?

Sir: The first-class cricket averages amply

demonstrate the current poverty of the County Championship. The following examples do not bode well for the forthcoming Ashes series this winter:

Batsmen:  
G Thorpe: average of 26 in 13 innings.  
N Hussain: average of 31 in 19 innings.  
Bowlers:  
R Croft: 20 wickets at 57 (483 overs).  
P Such: 38 wickets at 39 (525 overs).

At the same time:  
A Caddick (On standby): 105 wickets at 19.8 (687 overs)

And as a final reminder: C Walsh (35 years old): 106 wickets at 17.3 (633 overs); WHAT A JOKE.

ALAN ROBERTS  
Teddington  
Middlesex

Premiership under threat from below

Sir: I believe that there is a trickle of people going to watch football at the lower levels and at cheaper prices and without forecasting that this could develop into a flood, there is a real danger that football at the higher level is overselling itself. The days of the "floating" supporters must be almost

## Curran pays for lack of success

KEVIN CURRAN has been sacked as the captain of Northamptonshire after just one season in charge.

The decision was announced by the club's chief executive, Steve Cowdell, yesterday.

The county endured a disastrous summer in which they finished 15th in the AXA League and made early exits from both the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy.

A decision on his successor will be made over the next few weeks and Northamptonshire may look to a new overseas player to take on the job.

"Kevin has been typically committed and thoroughly professional as captain," said Cowdell. "His dedication and determination have been exemplary and he was as dis-

CRICKET

pointed as anyone that the club didn't achieve more this season.

"He was appointed to provide positive leadership and in many ways he did that. However, the committee now feels that Kevin can best serve Northamptonshire in 1999 - his benefit year - by concentrating on his own performances as a player."

"No doubt there will be a lot of speculation, but at the moment there is no one under serious consideration to take over."

Australia's Cricket Board has ruled out any of its players appearing at hearings into match-fixing scandals while on the current tour of Pakistan. The commission had been seeking evidence from Mark Waugh and Mark Taylor.

# Wannabe makes it to the big time

YOU COULD feel the coming winter in the air here yesterday, and you could see it too, in the first traces of dull, woolly coats worn by a few of the runners for the Cheveley Park Stakes. Wannabe Grand was not one of them, though, and for her the seasons all seem to come as one. "An iron filly," Jeremy Noseda called her after she had beaten off Imperial Beauty by half a length, and only a fool would argue.

This was Wannabe Grand's eighth race of the season, which would be a fair campaign for a four-year-old handicapper. For a well-regarded juvenile, it is almost unheard of, but Wannabe Grand is a generous horse who thrives on hard work. "She's incredibly tough," Noseda said. "There could be more talented horses, but her attribute is toughness. She's danced every dance this season, and still come back for more."

Noseda himself has been around the ballroom a few times for a trainer in his mid-thirties. An assistant to John Dunlop and John Gosden, and then an important backroom boy for Godolphin, he left to train in America for a season and a half before returning to Britain last year.

He now has a Group One winner among the 40 odd horses he prepares in Paul Kelleway's old yard on the Bury Road, which is all the more commendable given that neither his former employer at Godolphin, Sheikh Mohammed, nor any of the Maktoum brothers figures among his list of owners.

For the moment at least, he

BY GREG WOOD  
at Newmarket

is doing very well without them, although yesterday's race could well be as good as it gets for Wannabe Grand. Noseda, like Mark Johnston, seems to have the rare ability to keep horses at their peak for races and months on end, often teasing out a little more improvement with each new trip to the track.

Even he, though, cannot alter the basic blueprint and when Wannabe Grand ran over seven furlongs in Ireland earlier

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Norski Lad  
(Newcastle 4.00)  
NB: Brilliance  
(Brighton 3.40)

this month, her stamina failed her. The ground was soft that day, and the wind in her face, but still the owners were not good if Noseda has Classics in mind.

"It would have to be a big question mark," Noseda said, "but we've got a lot of time to think about it now, and to me, today was her 1,000 Guineas." In other words, Ladbrokes were right to leave her unchanged at 33-1 for next year's Classic, although it was interesting to hear that Noseda feels he has a better juvenile - an unraced colt - at home. His name remains a secret, but presumably only until the 2,000 Guineas entries are published.

The final held for the Prix de Triomphe is rather closer to hand, although the 17 names which remained after

yesterday's five-day declaration stage do not tell the whole story. Two of the first six horses in Coral's latest betting - Sea Wave and Limpid - are not yet in the race, but will almost certainly be supplemented to tomorrow, along with the Prix Vermeille winner, Leggera.



Park life: Wannabe Grand (Pat Eddery) seizes the initiative to win the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket from Imperial Beauty yesterday

Julian Herbert/Allsport

another leading contender Dream Well, worked over 10 furlongs at Chantilly yesterday, and convinced Pascal Bary his trainer that he will improve significantly on his disappointing third in the Prix Niel. "There is no doubt that Dream Well has made a lot of progress and in

any case the ground was awful at Longchamp that day," Bary said.

And if Dream Well disappoints, there is always the possibility that Croco Rouge, Bary's other runner, will spare his blushes. "I just prefer Croco Rouge," Bary said. "I thought

that he was the strongest before the French Derby, but Dream Well proved me wrong that day. On Sunday however, I think Croco Rouge may gain his revenge."

Coral agree with him, although only just. Croco Rouge is a 5-1 chance for Sunday's

race, with Dream Well half a point longer (from 6-1). The main mover in their market yesterday, though, was Sea Wave, the horse who dumped Lanfranc Dettori after a couple of strides in the Prix Niel. He is now an 11-2 chance, from 8-1, so someone must have

been backing him. Perhaps it was his psychotherapist.

Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Ladbrokes: 9-2 Dream Well, High Risk, 5-1 Croco Rouge, Sea Wave, 6-1 Sire, 7-1 Impression, 8-1 Limpid, 10-1 Wannabe Grand, 11-1 Empire, 12-1 Bit Alby, 14-1 Karayem, 16-1 Ezaiza, 20-1 Gallo, 28-1 Shadaya, Starsong, 33-1 others. Cambridge: 10-1 Sire, 12-1 Ladbrokes, 14-1 Driftwood, 15-1 Superb, 15-1 Superb and Diamond, 16-1 Almond Rock, H 11 SK, St John, 15-1 others.

## Opening lot falls to Tabor

THE TATTERSALLS Houghton Sales at Newmarket got off to a flying start last night when turnover passed a million guineas after only 20 minutes of trading. The opening lot, a Sadler's Wells filly sister to the Derby favourite Commander Collins, fell to the bloodstock agent Demi O'Byrne, acting for the Michael Tabor, John Magnier, Aidan O'Brien team, for 425,000 guineas.

## FIRST SHOW

SALISBURY				
H	C	H	L	S
Hyperion	3.50	Red Delirium	4.20	Dauphin
Lucido	4.20	Island Sands	4.50	Misconduct
3.20 Levelled				

Detroit

## RACING RESULTS

### NEWMARKET

Gong: Good

### SOUTHWELL

Gong: Standard

### BRIGHTON

Gong: Standard

### OPENING LOT

### FALLS TO TABOR

### FIRST SHOW

### SALISBURY

# Ban means a delayed start for Bradbury

DAVID BRADBURY, Salford's back-row forward will make a late start to next season - but not as late as some would have liked or he might have feared.

Bradbury, a Great Britain tourist in 1986, has been suspended for five matches after being sent off for using a forearm to the jaw of Bradford's Harvey Howard on Sunday.

Since Salford's season is over, the ban will come into operation for Challenge Cup ties and Super League matches at the start of next season but its severity is less than many had predicted.

Although fears that

Howard's jaw was broken have since been allayed, Bradbury's record was not good. He was suspended for seven months in 1995 after breaking the jaw of Castleford's Lee Harland while playing for Oldham and was placed on report for another tackle immediately before his dismissal on Sunday.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, took the unusual step of putting out a public statement condemning Bradbury's behaviour, something for which he was criticised by the Salford chairman, John Wilkinson.

The Bradford chairman, Chris Caisley, responded to yesterday's lenient sentence

## RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

by calling for a fixed tariff for various offences. "An elbow to the jaw is the most violent of offences and should be treated as such," he said. "The game has to be very careful that it doesn't allow the return of thuggery."

Howard trained yesterday

despite heavy swelling and hopes to be able to play in the elimination semi-final against St Helens on Friday if Elliott says will be "the start of a new competition" for the Bulls.

The reigning champions

have only limped into the play-offs in fifth position and Elliott said: "If I focused on all the

adversity during the regular season, we'd have no chance on Friday night."

"It's not so much a salvage

operation, more the start of a new season."

John Monle, the coach of Wigan, who have qualified in first place, believes that the new play-off concept will soon win over British fans.

"Having grown up with the

top-five system, I know it's a

great system," he said yesterday. "If you think you've seen desperate games this season, I can assure everyone that you

haven't seen desperation until the play-offs. Once you've witnessed it, you won't want to go back to the other way."

Wigan have the weekend off, before playing Leeds or Halifax a week on Sunday in the match that leads straight to the Grand Final at Old Trafford on 24 October.

Super League's marketing

director, Ian Robson, has con-

firmed that there will be no con-

cessionary tickets for children

for the Grand Final. "It is sub-

ject to too much abuse and we don't think that £10 is an un-

reasonable minimum price for

an event of this magnitude," he said.

New Zealand have named three players involved in the play-offs in their squad to play Australia in two Tests on 9 and 16 October, even though the game's international governing body has ruled that their clubs

have the first call on them.

That would seem to rule out

Wigan's Henry Paul and Richie

Blackmore of Leeds, although

Robbie Paul could conceivably

be drafted in if the Bulls lose on

Friday.

A Chinese government dele-

gation studying the adminis-

tration of sport in this country

visited Rugby League head-

quarters in Leeds yesterday.

g lot

PAT SHOW

Labor

## Detroit rely on returns

BRYANT WESTBROOK returned an interception 34 yards for a touchdown and Terry Fair raced 105 yards on a kick-off return as the Detroit Lions beat their NFC Central rivals, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 27-6 on Monday night. Both sides have a record of 1-3.

Barry Sanders, the Lions running back, rushed for 131 yards on 27 carries to record his 70th career 100-yard rushing record for Detroit. Charlie Batch,

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

FORM VERDICT

quarterback, and raced untouched into the end zone for his second career touchdown. A 44-yard run by Sanders to the Tampa Bay two midway through the third quarter set up the Lions for another score, Batch sneaking in to make it 20-10.

Fair's return was one yard longer than the longest in the Lions' long history and one short of the longest on the NFL record books.

With the Lions 6-3 ahead Westbrook helped break open

the game less than two minutes into the second half when he grabbed an errant pass from Trent Dilfer, the Tampa Bay

quarterback, and raced untouched into the end zone for his second career touchdown.

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Children  
in fight  
for school  
win aid

THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 30 September 1998

SPORT/27

# 'Pushed' Dicks defends referee

JULIAN DICKS yesterday leaped to the defence of the referee Uriah Rennie after criticism of the official's performance at Upton Park on Monday night.

The Southampton manager, David Jones, accused Rennie of "missing a lot of things" in his side's 1-0 defeat at West Ham which left them rooted to the bottom of the table. He also accused the Sheffield official of not giving a free-kick when Mark Hughes was fouled in the build-up which led to Ian Wright's goal after an hour. He was then mystified by the referee's decision to disallow Ken Monkou's 81st-minute volley which cost the Premiership's bottom club their second point of the season.

Jones said: "I don't know why he's disallowed it. He said there was a foul in the area but I've seen it three times and I can't see it. It looked like Julian Dicks slipped over."

But Dicks insisted it was pushed as Matt Le Tissier's corner came over and praised Rennie for spotting the infringement. "Somebody pushed me and the referee blew up before he volleyed it into the net," said Dicks, who was playing his first League match in 18 months after a career-threatening knee injury.

"It was definitely a free-kick. Somebody did push me but I was surprised the referee saw it. Not many people would have but he was only five yards away. 'Ken Monkou wasn't my man but I was pushed and that's a free-kick even though I wasn't marking him. A lot of decisions have gone against us and that one went for us."

Dicks, who won the man of the match award for the second game running, also hit out at critics of Wright's celebration after his fourth goal of the season. Wright and Neil Ruddock played out a parody of Paolo Di Canio's clash with referee Paul

FOOTBALL  
BY DERRICK WHYTE

Alcock at the weekend, the former Arsenal striker showing his team-mate an imaginary red card before failing to the ground after being pushed.

Wright insisted it was only a "bit of fun" and Dicks said:

"Whatever Wright does always gets stuck but it's a bit of fun if they charge him on that there's something wrong. The game is supposed to be fun."

The Football Association confirmed yesterday that it would not be taking any action against Wright or Ruddock for the celebration.

European leagues escalated their confrontation with Fifa yesterday, saying they would refuse to release players for the Confederation Cup tournament in January. Representatives of the English and Scottish leagues said they had joined those from Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Greece and the Netherlands in defying the sport's international governing body.

Meeting in Brussels, the delegations said their clubs would not release any players for the 8 to 20 January tournament in Mexico because of conflicts with domestic league play.

Fifa has offered to reduce the time clubs are required to make their players available for the Confederation Cup, but that was not enough to head off a mass revolt. The US, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the winner of the current Oceania contest in Brisbane, Australia, will participate. In England, Arsenal would lose French players Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, while Chelsea would lose Marcel Desailly and Franck Leboeuf.

The Hearts manager, Jim Jefferies, is keen to sign the 32-year-old former international and is hoping his bold bid will come to fruition 24 hours after the first-round, second-leg game.

Guerin has been capped 19 times and, apart from Hearts, Marseilles and clubs in America's Major League Soccer and Japan's J-League are monitoring his availability.

Adam said: "Vincent is a very good player, who has played at the highest level. He has quick feet, plays it nice and

simple and links up well with the other players. I think he would be a brilliant signing and an important one for it to show how much ambition we have. Not only would he add depth to the squad, but his presence would benefit the young lads in the club."

"I played against him twice when I was at Metz, and they were both hard games. He is a quality player, no doubt about that."

"I spoke to Vincent after the training session and told him

about life in Edinburgh. Hearts are an ambitious club but a family club as well. We like a joke and some fun."

"When I speak to my former team-mates in France, I tell them of the joy I have playing in Edinburgh. But whether Vincent will come here, I really don't know. I know he has other offers to consider."

Jefferies was made aware of Guerin's availability through the West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, who had the Euro 96 star on trial.

The Hearts manager said: "I was surprised Guerin was available, and I kept nipping away at him and his agent to see what we could work out. Stéphane and Gilles [Rousset] told me he was a top quality player, and I would do my best to get him."

"So it was good to see him in training, and I'll be on the phone as soon as we return from Majorca to get an update on his position. Hopefully, we will know something on Friday. I don't want this to drag on."

In January, Guerin was banned for 18 months with 12 months suspended after testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone last September. His appeal on the grounds that he had taken the drug unknowingly was rejected.

Meanwhile, Rousset, who has a back injury, travelled with the squad that left Glasgow yesterday. He could return to the side tomorrow, but Steve Fulton, who has a hamstring injury, is rated only 50-50.

## Adam's admiration for Guerin

STEPHANE ADAM believes Hearts will give out a strong signal about their ambition if they secure the services of the midfielder Vincent Guerin.

The 28-year-old Tynecastle

striker makes no secret of the fact that he is a big fan of his fellow Frenchman. Guerin, who is out of contract at Paris St Germain, has already had a training session with the Edinburgh club, who left yesterday for the Cup-Winners' Cup game against Real Mallorca.

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The Hearts manager said: "I was surprised Guerin was available, and I kept nipping away at him and his agent to see what we could work out. Stéphane and Gilles [Rousset] told me he was a top quality player, and I would do my best to get him."

"So it was good to see him in training, and I'll be on the phone as soon as we return from Majorca to get an update on his position. Hopefully, we will know something on Friday. I don't want this to drag on."

## Salary talks threaten new season

THE LATEST collective bargaining offer from National Basketball Association owners includes some movement on their proposals for maximum and minimum salaries. The union was preparing to make its next move as the likelihood increased that the season will not start on time 3 November.

If the union decides to present a counterproposal, it could lead to a resumption of face-to-face talks that would give the sides about two weeks to strike a deal allowing for a full 82-

game schedule to be played. The NBA has never lost a game because of a labour dispute.

The pace of negotiations and the quality of the proposals could increase after John Feerick, the dean of Fordham University Law School, rules on the union's grievance over whether players with guaranteed contracts for the upcoming season should be paid during the lock-out. Feerick's decision will come before 19 October.

According to sources close to the bargaining, the owners made some movement in their most recent offer sent to union headquarters last Friday.

In its proposals, the league has offered two different financial systems designed to slow the growth of player salaries. One would retain all the facets of the old agreement but gradually reduce the percentage of basketball-related income devoted to player salaries. The union says that amounts to an unacceptable "hard" salary cap.

The other would eliminate the Larry Bird exception, which allows teams to exceed their salary cap to retain their own free agents, after a three-year phaseout, and eliminate the \$1m (£600,000) salary cap exception available to teams every other year and reduce the maximum pay rise from 20 per cent to five per cent for all but a handful of players. Players who previously would have qualified for the Bird exception will be limited to raises of seven and a half per cent.

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The race co-ordinator Peter Elliott was initially unable to slot him into the field, but Masa was squeezed in as a late entry after a couple of withdrawals.

"I have always said the Great North Run is my favourite race – it's greedy for another success."

"Contrary to what people

may think, money is not important to me when it comes to the Great North Run. I cannot tell you how hurt I feel when I thought I was going to miss this year's race. Fortunately I pursued Peter and although I accepted he was planning to fetch in some other runners from other parts of the world, I was praying he would include me."

Masa was made aware of Guerin's availability through the West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, who had the Euro 96 star on trial.

In January, Guerin was banned for 18 months with 12 months suspended after testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone last September. His appeal on the grounds that he had taken the drug unknowingly was rejected.

Meanwhile, Rousset, who has a back injury, travelled with the squad that left Glasgow yesterday. He could return to the side tomorrow, but Steve Fulton, who has a hamstring injury, is rated only 50-50.

## Home victory could give Doohan the title

MICHAEL DOOHAN, the four-times world 500cc motorcycling champion, says he is likely to retire at the end of next year.

"I've decided to continue again for next year but I doubt I'll go for 2001. I think new century, new job," the Australian said yesterday.

Doohan, 33, who has won 52 grands prix, said his love of the sport was what kept him going.

"I still really enjoy riding the motorcycle and when that starts to slacken, that's when I'll give it away," the Honda rider said.

Doohan leads the championship standings this year by 21 points from Italy's Max Biaggi and the cancellation on Monday of next month's Brazilian Grand Prix means he could retain his title at this weekend's round at Phillip Island in Australia.

The international federation, the FIM, said the Brazilian race had been cancelled because Rio de Janeiro's Nelson Piquet circuit, which had been due to host the 14th round of the championship on 18 October failed to pass a safety inspection. The race would not be replaced or rescheduled.

The decision leaves just two rounds remaining in the world

championship – at Phillip Island on 4 October and Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 12 October.

"With Brazil now out it's mathematically possible for me to win the title at Phillip Island, but that won't change the way I approach this race," Doohan said. "I go into every race trying to win and if I can do that at Phillip Island the championship will take care of itself."

Victory would give Doohan at least a 20-point advantage going into the final race. A grand prix win is worth 25 points while the second-placed rider scores 20.

Doohan leads with 210 points, 21 clear of Biaggi, who is second on 189 ahead of the Spaniard Alex Criville on 182.

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There's still two races left and 50 points up for grabs so no one has won anything yet and Biaggi and Criville are still in the equation," said Doohan.

"I'll keep my head down at Phillip Island. If the championship comes this weekend that's good, but nothing is certain until it's over."

The opening practice and qualifying sessions at Phillip Island will be held on Friday.

MOTORCYCLING

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DOOHAN LEADS CHAMPIONSHIP

# SPORT

CLARKE THE ENGLAND DIAMOND P22 • HENMAN'S MUNICH MISERY P23

## Clinical Collymore cuts loose

By PHIL SHAW

in Oslo

**STAN COLLYMORE**, a peripheral figure in Aston Villa's ascent to the Premiership summit, made a stunning return to active service in a Norwegian downpour last night. Two early goals by the £7m enigma ended Stromsgodset's Uefa Cup challenge almost before it began, and he completed his hat-trick shortly after the hour.

While the evening was clearly a personal success for Collymore - who was playing only because Paul Merson signed from Middlesbrough too late to be eligible - it also represented a triumph of teamwork and resilience. Villa had been 2-0 down with eight minutes of the first leg remaining before the 18-year-old Darius Vassell capped a remarkable fightback, but once Collymore had scored twice in the space of 14 minutes their place in Friday's second-round draw was never in doubt.

The last Villa player to collect a hat-trick in Continental competition was Gary Shaw in a European Cup tie against Dinamo Bucharest 15 autumns ago. Collymore has a long way to go before he can even hope to match the popularity of Shaw, whom he once idolised from the Hole End, yet this was a promising if somewhat belated start.

His opening salvo, a brutal drive with his right foot, was almost a carbon copy of the one he scored as a substitute when Villa bowed out of the same competition to Atletico Madrid at the quarter-final stage in March. That, coincidentally, was his last goal, since when he has tended to make headlines at the front end of the newspapers rather than on the sports pages.

For his second, which finally took him into double figures more than a year after he arrived from Liverpool, Collymore used his left foot. His powerful running with the ball and interplay with Julian Joachim merited a third goal, which duly came from close range as what had started as a struggle became a stroll for Villa.

Collymore's contribution gives John Gregory the sort of selection problem managers relish for Saturday's derby at Coventry. He was starting only his second match this season, and for the fourth time in Gregory's six-month reign.

The contrast with Villa's venture to Madrid could hardly have been more marked. The council-owned Marienlyst Stadium proved to be of



The Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore hits his first goal past defender Erland Johnsen on the way to a hat-trick in the Uefa Cup tie in Stromsgodset last night

Tom Horne

Conference size, its capacity of 4,200 having been increased only by temporary seating.

In terms of history and resources, the disparity between Stromsgodset and Villa is similarly pronounced. The club from the port of Drammen have been professional for just two years, compared with the visitors' 110. They have fewer than 20 full-time staff, against the 104 in Doug Ellis's employ, and were playing only their 12th match in Europe

whereas Villa have claimed the premier prize.

The clubs' recent fortunes have also been sharply divergent. For while Villa's rampant star has their followers dreaming of the championship, Stromsgodset are fighting against relegation. Their caretaker manager, Jens Martin Stoen, was working at his physiotherapy practice until two hours before kick-off; Gregory only ever has to massage egos.

Stoen had been able to recall his former Premiership players, Jostein Flo and Erlend Johnsen, and both figured prominently in an eventful opening. The towering Flo, once of Sheffield United, operated as a lone target man, with Stromsgodset's midfielders presumably under orders to support him when possible.

The play worked just once, in the seventh minute, when Flo flicked on and Christer George sent a looping header over the bar.

Villa responded so positively that the tie was effectively over with the first half barely past the midway point. In the 11th minute, Johnsen's control belied his spells with Chelsea and Bayern Munich and Collymore pounced on the loose ball. Cutting in from the left, he angled an 18-yard shot across Glenn Arne Hansen.

After a further Flo-induced scare in which Stromsgodset had two efforts blocked and another saved by Mark Bosnich following a corner,

Collymore struck again in the 24th minute. An intricate build-up on Villa's right flank culminated in a shot by Ian Taylor. When Hansen parried, the ball broke to Villa's No 9, who dispatched it clinically from 10 yards.

Collymore's final thrust owed everything to the selfless work of Joachim. The diminutive attacker beat a defender on the byline before delivering a low pass which invited a simple tap-in.

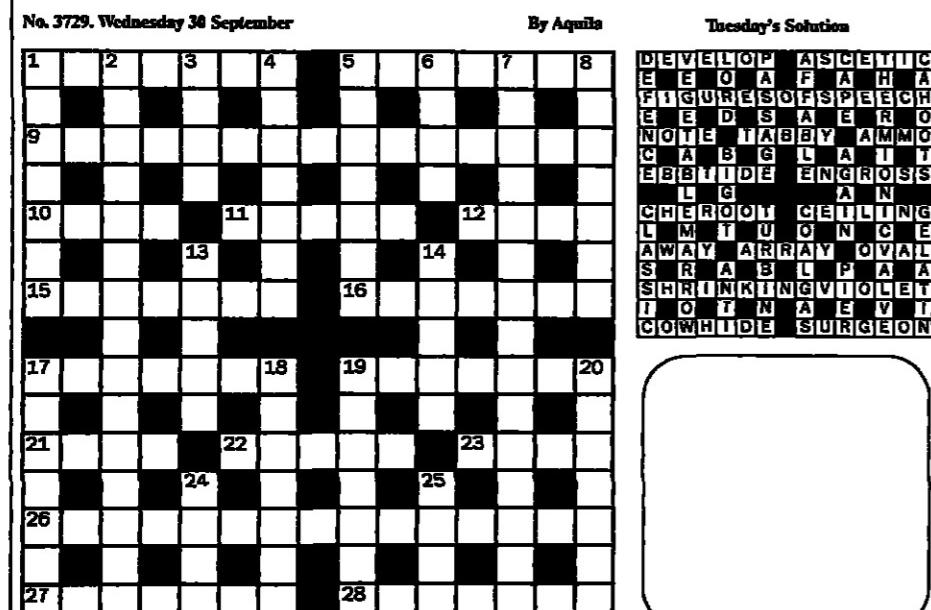
The only downside for Villa, on a night when they also kept their seventh clean sheet in nine games, were yellow cards for Taylor and Alan Thompson. Both were also cautioned at Villa Park and will therefore miss the club's next European fixture.

**Stromsgodset** (4-5-1): Hansen; Granaas, Sverre Sandberg, Gjermund (R) Olseng, Stoen, Flo, Johnsen (Srom, 83), E. Hagen (L Olsen, 67), N. Hagen; Flo.

**Aston Villa** (3-5-2): Bozanic; Elouga, Southgate, Granaas, Joachim, 31, Taylor (Ferraresi, 70), Draper, Thompson, Wright-Jones, Collymore.

Referee: D Scott (Switzerland).

### THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 1 A scrap in Derby, for example — its natural home (7)
- 5 Nicola C. rambling? Quite the opposite! (7)
- 9 Latin-derived name for Chichester (15)
- 10 Middling ring to distress call (2,2)
- 11 End of talking parrot or crow (5)
- 12 Vehicle in reverse on motorway? (4)
- 15 Rabbits on pancakes (7)
- 16 Don't long to be embraced by better half? (7)
- 17 Silly old guys at the end of the line? (7)
- 19 Lexicographer once a weaver? (7)
- 21 Refusing to heed notes (4)
- 22 A great stop at sea (5)
- 23 Old Indian of a certain caste (4)
- 26 Refurbished Holm hospital got an eye specialist? (15)
- 27 Possibly clear city of misappropriation? (7)
- 28 Great North American variety of songbird (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Cutter of steel and jade observed? (7)
- 2 A Fife shortbread in pieces? They tend to stick together (5,2,1)
- 3 Expedition as far as ancient city (4)
- 4 Turtills of square English in Spain? (7)
- 5 Mad young thing always in constraint? (7)
- 6 Composer in four keys (4)
- 7 Still having no credit? (15)
- 8 Type of pigeon that can spread disease? (7)
- 13 This river runs over end of street? (6)
- 14 Puts coat on clumsily (5)
- 17 Play the fool with light sack? (7)
- 18 Hotel taking in the Spanish sausage? (7)
- 19 Total failure of Shaw play abroad? (7)
- 20 Letter from America? (7)
- 24 Hose embroidered in Oxford, possibly (4)
- 25 Book for the convenience of Americans (4)

## 'I deserved a red card' says Di Canio

By TOMMY STANIFORTH

point, but I think this whole thing has been exaggerated. Keown came up and hit me in the face.

"At that point I couldn't see anything because I could feel the blood coming out and the pain made my head spin. I lost my temper. I think that, for the reaction I had, I deserved to be sent off."

Keown has appealed against his red card, insisting he was acting as a peacemaker; but Di Canio claims that Alcock made the right decision in sending off the Arsenal man. "I think Keown deserved to be sent off as well," he said. "I acted badly towards the referee but it was just a slight push, and he took two or three paces back and fell over; just like a

player does when he wants a free-kick. It was a bit of play-acting."

Every Saturday I get kicked around a lot and nobody is there to protect me. This isn't fair and it seems to me that the treatment handed out to foreigners is harsher than what the others get. The problem is that the English are jealous of foreign players."

Di Canio's agent, Matteo Roggi, moved to minimise the damage by saying: "He is really sorry for what happened during the game on Saturday and would like to apologise to everyone for his actions to the referee, to his manager Danny Wilson, his team-mates and the Sheffield Wednesday fans."

Di Canio, who has 14 days to respond to the FA and request a personal hearing, appears certain to be handed a long ban.

## Forest pledge Dutchman

By ALAN NIXON

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have asked the Premier League for a £1m loan, using Pierre Van Hooijdonk as collateral. The Dutchman has been on strike, refusing to rejoin Forest after they rejected his transfer request.

Forest want the cash to sign a replacement and plan to repay the money when they sell Van Hooijdonk. "The Premier League will never agree with this," Van Hooijdonk said from the Netherlands. "It's unrealistic and silly. If Forest get permission it will open the door for every club to ask for loans."

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, launched his clear-

described as "stupid" and "greedy" in Littlejohn's column.

"His article is full of inaccuracies," Sugar said. "If and when Tottenham needs a new owner, it would have to be a big corporation with deep pockets and huge resources and not, with respect, a group of passionate fans with a sarcastic, career-enhancing media mouthpiece as their spokesman."

Queen's Park Rangers are unlikely to appoint Ian Dowie or Jimmie Jones, both of whom want the job, to replace the sacked Ray Harford. The chairman, Chris Wright, says he will make an appointment by 17 October.

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# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



This man's account of his childhood in Auschwitz has earned him the respect of Jews, the attention of Steven Spielberg and a place alongside Primo Levi in holocaust literature. He has been accused of writing a piece of fiction



This man has retired from an academic career founded upon his impeccable liberal credentials. He is a former SS officer and Himmler henchman who came back from the dead and remarried his own widow

In a new series of reviews, David Hare asks whether these men have

**B**enjamin Wilkomirski's book of childhood memories, *Fragments*, makes harrowing reading. It details how during his boyhood his "playgrounds" were the concentration camps of Majdanek and Auschwitz, where he saw his friends being killed by sadistic guards. It is a story told in nightmarish, fragmented detail, with scenes too terrible to be remembered as anything but flashing images and threatening shadows.

In the book, people are glimpsed only as visual imprints - a boot, an arm, a uniform; scenes the boy witnessed are recalled in hallucinatory detail. A man smiles at the child: "suddenly his face is contorted, he turns away, lifts up his head, opens his mouth as if to let out a mighty cry. From underneath, against the light sky, I see the contours of his jaw and the hat which is sliding backwards. No cry comes out of his throat but a mighty, black geyser gushes forth from his neck as a vehicle crushes him against the wall of the house, and his bones are snapping." The reader is confronted with the death of Benjamin's father at the hands of Latvian militiamen, and that of this mother in the camp.

Since its appearance in 1995, the book has quickly established itself among the classics of Holocaust literature alongside the works of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, has been translated into 12 languages, put on the reading lists of schools and universities, and been awarded the National Jewish Book Award, the Jewish Quarterly Literary Prize and the Prix de la Mémoire de la Shoah. Reviews over have reinforced its position as a monument to individual suffering, "dark, Proustian memories" and "poetic visions" (*New York Times*), and bearing out the weight of an entire century" (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*), and bearing out the tortuous way of bringing back what had long been repressed. The critic of the American publication *The Nation* even declared the book to be: "so moving, of such moral importance and so free of literary artifice that I ask myself whether I have any right to praise it... This man has survived - we don't know how, his sanity seems a miracle - and he gives this present of a almost perfect pain to a world that is still ready to destroy the innocent."

In an epilogue, the author tells that the authorities in Switzerland, where he grew up after the war, deprived him of his Jewish identity. He was called Bruno Doessekkher, provided with a false birth certificate and adopted by a Swiss family, all in an effort to erase his early ordeal from his memory and from the world. Later, the publisher supplied more information about the genesis of these traumatic recollections. Only psychotherapy had been able to unlock his memories of life in the land of the dead.

Wilkomirski has since appeared at conventions and conferences, talking about this process, and has given readings and spoken in schools. He has been the guest of the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and of several universities. He has also contributed to Steven Spielberg's epic oral history programme of interviews with survivors of the Holocaust.

The double existence as the Swiss Bruno Doessekkher and as Benjamin Wilkomirski, the former Riga Jew, an earlier self which he has been able to rediscover only as a mature man, has now been called into question by a Swiss journalist, Daniel Ganzfried, who claims that his research into the author's background suggests that Wilkomirski spent his entire childhood in the Swiss cities of Biel and Zurich; that he was the illegitimate son of one Yvonne Grosjean, and was later adopted by the Doessekkher family.

Ganzfried claims that Bruno Doessekkher did not spend his early years in Eastern Europe, and says he has evidence that the boy spoke perfect Zurich dialect when he went to school at the age of seven in 1947, despite the fact that, according to his

story, he would have only just arrived in Switzerland. Benjamin Wilkomirski, so Ganzfried claimed, had not preceded Bruno Doessekkher, but it had been the other way round, a Swiss man imagining a previous existence as a Riga Jew that never happened.

Though the book has already gained the acclaim of historians and reviewers alike, details of the text are now beginning to be questioned by some historians, who believe that some episodes are historically impossible and others are extremely unlikely.

Faced with these accusations, Wilkomirski defended himself by claiming that all these questions had already been answered in the epilogue to his book, where he had made it clear that his "official" life had been exclusively Swiss, but claimed that that did not affect the authenticity of his memories, as it had been the policy of the Swiss government to provide new identities for surviving children in its care.

Wilkomirski said that "it has always been possible for my readers to read my book as literature". Whether the work is fact or fiction is a question that remains open to interpretation. The publishers are standing by the book as fact, and the author continues to appear on historical congresses and has even identified the house in Riga in which he spent his early childhood.

Such an aestheticisation of history may appeal to post-modernists, to whom the author Wilkomirski may become a hero and emblem of the *indefinite play of signifiers*, a dance of fact and fiction placing truth in the eye of the beholder. As a book tied to a definite historical event, however, and to questions of individual and collective guilt and responsibility, these delicate issues of truth and fiction erode the very ground on which remembrance can be built, especially in Germany, a country that is still profoundly ill at ease both with its recent history and with the ways in which it can be remembered, and is dogged by a small but vocal group persistently doubting the veracity of the genocide of the Jews.

While there are genuine concerns that questioning the book may play into the hands of those who deny the Holocaust, it has also been pointed out that it would be far more damaging to leave it up to readers to determine whether this text should be treated as a document or as a work of fiction, the very ambiguity on which such a denial of genocide thrives.

Whatever the outcome, the affair is deeply embarrassing for all concerned, for Suhrkamp, Germany's most prestigious "intellectual" publishing house who accepted it (it did seek expert advice, and was encouraged to do so), and for those who sang its praises without questioning any possible inconsistencies. It also could be another blow for the already widely discredited therapeutic method of "retrieved memory", which has led to countless allegations of childhood sexual abuse, many of which have later been demonstrated to have no basis in fact.

The split identity of a supposed victim of the Holocaust is echoed by a second affair to occupy the German media: the case of Hans Schwerte, the former rector of Aachen University, a left-leaning liberal who gained his reputation by conciliating between the radical students and the conservative academic establishment during the Sixties. He was a leading literary scholar and adviser in educational questions to the German government, and a participant at the "Nuremberg talks", a forum of academics that set out to draft the "presentation and popularisation of left-wing liberalism". He is now living in a retirement home near Munich.

Schwerte was an expert on Goethe's scholar-hero Faust, who famously exclaimed "two souls live, woe is me, in this one chest". This turned out to be something of a literary and biographical irony when, in 1995, Schwerte was proved to be identical with one Hauptsturmführer Ernst-Hans Schneider, a high-ranking SS

officer and ideologue, who had supposedly been killed during the last days of the war.

With exemplary precision, Schwerte had relived the life of his earlier self. After conveniently "killing off" the Nazi Schneider, he had married Schneider's "widow", thus staying married to the same woman, had written a second doctoral dissertation; and was rewarded for his service to the education system with the merit cross of the German Federal Republic and several other medals, just as Schneider had been awarded the Iron Cross.

Schwerte enjoyed a successful and fruitful career as a literary scholar and university teacher before it was exposed that he had been, as Schneider, a prominent member of Heinrich Himmler's "Ahnenerbe" office, responsible not only for helping to formulate a National-Socialist vision of the German past and of "Germanic science", but also for requisitioning medical equipment for human experiments in the Dachau concentration camp. He had also called, at the end of the war, for a "total war of German science". After his exposure he was stripped of his honours. A Fascist wolf in liberal sheepskin, the ultimate opportunist, or as he himself prefers, a man who lacked courage but who did alone through his later actions, Schneider/Schwerte is emblematic for the culture of bureaucratic killers who changed their tune after the collapse of the vision of Germanic world domination that they had once believed in, and had helped to create.

In a final twist to his tale, the former professor who claimed for himself a secret chance without personal accountability was forced to live by the name under which he had allegedly been accessory to murder, though criminal proceedings against him collapsed. Now, after the publication of two competing biographies, the discussions about his case have flared up again, discussions that deal not only with a single SS officer turned liberal academic, but with the entire phenomenon of former Nazis gaining important positions in post-war intellectual life.

The academic establishment that allowed Schwerte to rise to prominence, the Technical University of Aachen, is not keen to have its workings investigated too closely. The author of one of the biographies was threatened with legal proceedings should he claim any complicity with, and knowledge of, Schwerte's dual identity among university colleagues.

The celebrated and admired east-European Jewish victim who may just be gentle and Swiss (and confused), and the left-wing academic who has been a Nazi ideologue: these two so very different figures have, strangely, much in common. Both stories are symptoms of a nation's struggle to deal with its past, which on the one hand makes a fetish of victims, while on the other prefers the perpetrators to be dead, not part of their present and enmeshed in other people's lives. At the same time, it is no accident that these discussions did not take place earlier.

It took a new generation of historians and journalists without personal memories of this time to ask these questions, a generation that asks more directly and is less afraid to expose old taboos. This, of course, is also part of the current political problems Germany is experiencing. Along with less sentimentality comes, all too often, less sensitivity and less knowledge.

Whether Benjamin Wilkomirski or Bruno Doessekkher, Hans Schwerte or Ernst-Hans Schneider, the shadow of the Third Reich is still looming over Germany and over a new crop of commentators struggling to make sense of it all in the language not coloured by personal involvement. Many aspects of Germany's official culture of remembrance have long been due for an overhaul: annual and ritualised chest-beating on selected dates has given rise to the temptation to dismiss the historical terror to-

gether with the modern manifestations of its continuing presence. Guilt that is learnt by rote can also lead to hatred.

The last 50 years of German history have been marked by attempts to reinvent the nation without allowing it to escape from its own shadow. As this task is taken over by a new generation, the two unconnected and bizarre episodes of Benjamin Wilkomirski and Hans Schwerte serve as a timely reminder of the nature of this task: to live with a past consisting of fragments that are neither imagined nor embellished, nor edited according to suitability - but confronted and, if possible, understood. That is challenge enough to a generation with no first-hand knowledge of the period, or indeed to any generation.

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FINANCE

• • •

**Blackpool follies**

Sir: The Prime Minister's warning to his party ("Carping will let in Tories, say Blair", 28 September) and the feelings it might provoke in his more left-wing members, brings to mind Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

As the initial excitement of the animals' victory over Farmer Jones recedes and life on Manor Farm steadily gets worse, Squealer is constantly heard to warn that if the animals don't do what they're told then they will see the return of the dreaded Jones.

CLIVE JARVIS  
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Sir: Mr Blair tells us it is a choice between the Labour government we have got and the Tories. (Or was it the other way round?) Only two options? Whatever happened to the "third way"?

JOHN NICHOLSON  
Convenor, Greater Manchester Socialist Alliance  
Manchester

Sir: If there was one idea that we might expect to run through Labour Party policy, old and new, it is equality; or if that is too blunt for the New lot, then at least some levelling of the inequalities that grew out of the Thatcher years.

Yet so far we have been offered "super-nurses", "beacon councils" and now "super-teachers" (report, 28 September). What these policies have in common, (apart from receiving heavy criticism from all the professional bodies involved,) is they reward nurses, councils and teachers who have "excelled" with money, power and influence. Meanwhile, the 99 per cent of nurses, councils or teachers who did not scramble to the top of the heap are underfunded as usual.

What is "New" about any of this? It seems to me a mere formalisation of the dog-eat-dog attitude of the last administration. Can neither of these two political parties really come up with a better system of reward for public service than offering a tit-bit to the dog who jumps highest?

DAVID GORDON  
(Liberal Democrat county councillor)  
Hinton St George, Somerset

Sir: I would like to thank the efficient Mr Gordon Brown for his elegant new economic policy. Instead of the tiresome old policies of boom and bust he has calculated that it would be so much cheaper and more certain simply to go straight to bust.

How silly we have been to waste our time on those foolish booms.

MIKE BELL

Leeds

Sir: David Aaronovitch's attacks on Liz Davies and *Labour Left Briefing* are becoming increasingly fantastic (Comment, 29 September).

First, he repeatedly quotes out of context in order to distort the meaning of articles in *Briefing*. For example, he tells readers that a piece in the current issue refers to the "armed struggle" in Ireland. The complete sentence reads as follows: "The armed struggle is over and people no longer want a return to the cycle of violence of the Troubles."

Second, he claims members of *Briefing's* editorial board wrote to *The Independent* without declaring themselves as such. In fact, in a letter published on 21 August Tony Dale declared himself a member of the editorial board and went on to point out that he had denounced the IRA's Manchester bombing in unequivocal terms in an article in *Briefing* – one of the many facts Aaronovitch conveniently overlooks in his determination to smear us with broad-brush allegations about "terrorism."

Finally, Aaronovitch claims he does not care about Labour's NEC election. Then why has he devoted two lengthy columns to it?

MIKE MARQUESE  
Political Correspondent  
*Labour Left Briefing*  
London E5

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



A postman empties an early Victorian letter-box in Cambridge, in the third of our series on the life of the town before the students return Brian Harris

Sir: Contrary to David Aaronovitch's assertion, I do not believe and have never said that higher rates of income tax should start at "20,000 or so". As I made clear on BBC television on Monday, I do believe that people earning more than £50,000 should pay more income tax than they do now.

**Jews by choice**

Sir: Along with so many others you are over-pessimistic about the future of British Jewry ("We must redefine Jewishness", 28 September).

Sure, there are problems, outmarriage – and note I do not say "intermarriage" – being the major one. I speak only for one branch of Judaism – Reform – but our experience of huge numbers of people coming to educational courses on Jewish history, culture, language – and religion even – does not speak of a community on its way out. Our Movement's, Orthodoxy's and non-affiliated education seminars are bulging at the seams.

To return to the problem of attrition by outmarriage, however, it is here that we part company from our more traditional co-religionists.

Most committed Jewish families – and that includes the huge number whose only contact with their faith is chicken soup, hamantaschen and Jewish New Year – fear their children marrying outside the faith. It is however an increasing fact of life. A community of 300,000 in a population of 60 million cannot stop it, and we have tried.

The answer is – as far as our Movement is concerned – to turn outmarriage into intermarriage. This is not – yet – a view shared by Orthodoxy, where conversion is all but impossible. Conversion, while not encouraged vigorously by

Judaism, has a long tradition dating back to Ruth in the Bible and even before. Many other Jewish communities worldwide make it easier for people to join in than is the case in the UK.

We do all we can to retain our young Jews who find non-Jewish partners. Our rabbis train and teach, encouraging the Jewish partner often to return to a faith they had all but abandoned. There is no shame in keeping your child loyal to his or her traditions and welcoming the partner. The alternative route – wringing our hands while eschewing the only way of stanching the flow – leads nowhere but to a small *echt-kosher* rump, living in isolation in a few parts of London and

Manchester. We will not settle for that.

At my own synagogue many of our most committed and spiritual worshippers are there by choice rather than accident of birth. Our future includes a recognition of the need to match our commitment to traditional values and practices to a dialogue with modernity.

BARRY HYMAN  
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain  
London N3

**Mothers hit back**

Sir: What is Howard Jacobson's problem ("Get it off your chest", Magazine 26 September). I feel personally attacked as a library-

using mother with three children. He talks of being a son – but is he a father? I doubt it.

I was pleased to read that the children's lending section of which he writes is so well used. These mothers should be applauded, not patronised, for observing library etiquette.

As for mothers who breastfeed in a public place – how dare Howard Jacobson act in such a threatening manner. I'm sure he would be furious at being so rudely disturbed during his lunch.

Admittedly he would be unlikely to be eating it in a library, but this is one of the beauties of breastfeeding. Any place, anywhere – or it should be.

To all mothers who are

breastfeeding or considering breastfeeding, please do not be put off by these unfeeling, inconsiderate bullies. You are right, they are not.

SARAH OLIVER  
Faringdon,  
Oxfordshire

Sir: Roger Dobson's article, "How to turn nightmares into sleeping beauties" (29 September) infuriated me with its half-baked "medical" theories such as "Night waking and settling problems are the seeds of potential long-term behavioural problems in the child" and "Sleep is a learnt behaviour and many parents fail to teach it properly."

These are the same old tired theories that have been put forward for twenty years. Many parents, myself and my partner included, have moved on from this quasi-Victorian attitude, which hardly credits the baby with having more intelligence than an animal, to another level altogether.

Rather than training our babies to sleep, we tried to respond to the deepest human needs, which babies bring forth within us if we are lucky enough to be parents. As a mother of three, the eldest of whom is now 17, I certainly "failed" to teach my children to sleep when they were babies. I fed them on demand and each baby slept between us in our big family bed until they were ready to move on to their own beds around the age of four.

Nights were broken, but strangely enough this was not the signal of long-term behavioural problems – in fact quite the reverse. The needy babies have developed into interesting and kind young men who are both independent and affectionate.

If you have children, you have to be prepared to put in night duty for the first few years in order to reap huge benefits later.

CR POLLARD  
Billingham, Cleveland

**I should be dead**

Sir: OK, so why haven't I mutated? ("Passive smoking in pregnancy causes gene mutation in babies", 29 September.)

And my three siblings, like most of our generation, grew up with chain-smoking parents, and every public building we went into was permeated with tobacco smoke. All our water came through lead pipes, our rooms were heated with smoky coal fires and lit – in the earliest days – by gas lamps. Winter was a succession of smogs. Our bread was white – the more refined the better – our diet heavily into fat, starch and sugar, and during the war-time years fruit was a rare luxury.

According to the pieces of research (usually from America) you so often publish, we should have been obese brain-damaged morons, riddled with cancer and choking to death by our tenth birthdays. We are now in our seventh and eighth decades and, except for a late-developed case of MS, we are all in good shape and good health. What went wrong?

MARGARET DUGGAN  
London SW11

Sir: Hold the front page! According to a recent study 50 per cent of the world's population are male. This is based on a survey of 241 people in my office IT department, the same number surveyed in your headline article on passive smoking.

MIKE HANSEN  
London NW6

**Skin deep**

Sir: I have been following the discussion on circumcision with interest. Did I miss something, or am I correct in stating that no circumcised Jewish or Muslim male has written to protest at the practice? Those opposed to circumcision seem to be people to whom it is culturally irrelevant, and who need never fear the Mohel's knife.

The Rev Neil Dawson (letter, 29 September) writes that "new Christians ... were having none of it." This is misleading. There was fervent debate regarding circumcision in the early Church. Jesus and his disciples were all circumcised, of course, as were almost all the original Christians, and it was only to attract gentle converts that the ritual was waived. Many – if not most – of the church founders held that, to be a full Christian, one must undergo a full Jewish circumcision.

I have never regretted being a circumcised male. My understanding is that most males in the US are circumcised. When the circumcised themselves begin to lobby against the practice it will be time to take the issue seriously. Until then, the debate should be understood for what it is – the braying of misguided PCers, seeking to synthesise yet another issue to browbeat those they consider their moral inferiors.

GREGG SNEIRSON  
Brookline, Massachusetts, USA

Sir:

Several different lines of

research have shown that the greater the stimulation a nerve receives in the early years of development, then the greater the volume of brain that is allocated to serve the nerve. It would seem fair to suggest that adults who were circumcised as infants may actually have better feedback from the glans than their uncircumcised brothers.

PAUL PERRIN  
London SW17

Sir: As one who met the knife at the age of eight days, I find the debate over circumcision just a little sterile. Surely it is the right of parents to determine how their children are raised. The last thing parents need is yet more "advice" from the concerned on how to do something that has been taken for granted since the beginning of time – parenting.

Men who feel "traumatised" by the loss of a couple of square inches of skin obviously have a very shallow perspective on what constitutes a real problem in life.

MICHA MOSELLE  
Hong Kong

**IN BRIEF**

will care to promote wider use of Esperanto as a neutral common language?

HILARY S CHAPMAN  
Conwy, Gwynedd

Sir: Further to A Crossleigh's letter (29 September), I noticed while staying in northern France recently that the television satellite shopping channel showed French prices about a third of British ones. An item priced at £240 was also available at Fr130. We know that international companies pitch their prices as high as the market will stand. Does this then show we are three times as gullible as the French?

ALFRED BOUCH  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Sir: The Weasel (26 September) was right to point out the need for a lingua franca for Europe. However, Neo, which he cited, stands little chance of playing that role. It was a well-intended linguistic project which simply did not attract a body of speakers.

Esperanto, on the other hand, has been used in speech and writing for over a century.

Perhaps Lo Mustelo, as Esperanto-speakers know him,

failed to predict that this would be the case! For me, nothing can ever again be certain. I don't even think I'll be writing to Santa this year.

ALLAN PYM  
Ebbw Vale, Gwent

Sir: At the Commonwealth Games we had the pleasure of hearing the English national anthem on a number of occasions. "Land of Hope and Glory" has a stirring tune, and its performance reminds us that the appropriate time to hear "God Save the Queen" is when a British team is involved, representing Great Britain, not just England.

Can we now please get rid of the nonsense of the wrong anthem being heard when English football and rugby teams play other nations?

When Edward Elgar's splendid tune is heard at the last night of the Proms all sing along with great fervour. It can be done at Wembley and Twickenham too.

Shocked, not because his car proved to be less than reliable, but rather that he completely

round collecting everything herself. She was guilty of theft of copyright.

Counsel: Try another reason.

Wishart: She realised I had taken the last bag of coriander on display and decided to nick mine.

Counsel: Try another.

Wishart: She knew that it sometimes takes ages and ages queuing at the bakery counter to get fresh yeast, and decided to nick mine.

Counsel: Try another.

Judge: Is there any reason for badgering the witness in this way?

After all, you said one reason would do, and now you are asking her for a fourth...

Counsel: Yes, my Lord. I am trying to upset her and get her all confused, after which I can make emotional mince meat of her.

Judge: Excellent!

Counsel: Also, she said she could

provide half a dozen reasons, my Lord. I think I should hold her to her word.

Judge: Quite right, too. Carry on.

Counsel: Mrs Wishart, can you think of a fourth reason why she might have taken your trolley?

Wishart: Yes. Supermarkets like to reorganise the placing of their shelves from time to time so that regular customers can no longer find produce in the expected place.

Such a reorganisation had recently taken place at the Croydon SpendKwik, and it is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby had spent an increasingly frustrated half an hour searching for coriander or limes, had seen mine, and decided to nick it.

Counsel: How can you liberate a piece of dead salmon?

Wishart: Don't ask me. Ask Mrs Willoughby.

Judge: Look, wouldn't it be simpler

to ask Mrs Willoughby why she took the trolley?

Counsel: And so I will in due course, my Lord, but I think Mrs Willoughby should complete her payment at the legal check-out first, so to speak.

Judge: Very nicely put.

Counsel: So, Mrs Wishart, a fifth reason?

Wishart: It is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby is one of these animal rights activists and disapproves of salmon farming. She may have thought my purchase of salmon was farmed, and was determined to liberate it.

Counsel: How can you liberate a piece of dead salmon?

Wishart: Don't ask me. Ask Mrs Willoughby.

The case continues.

**Trolley pirates in the supermarket aisles of Croydon**

A most extraordinary trial is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a Mrs Wishart is suing Mrs Willoughby for the theft of her supermarket trolley. Of course, trolleys belong to the supermarket, not to private individuals, but what Mrs Wishart is getting at is that... well, perhaps a verbatim extract from the trial will give you a better idea.

Counsel: Now, Mrs Wishart, you were wheeling a trolley round the SpendKwik supermarket in Croydon on 19 July...

Wishart: I was.

Counsel: Can you describe this trolley?

Wishart: Yes. It was exactly the same as any SpendKwik trolley.

Counsel: Exactly the same?

</div

## Mr Blair talks tough, but avoids the hard choices

THE LABOUR Government started its Blackpool conference on the theme of tough love and Tony Blair kept it tough in his speech yesterday. Absent was any sign of the easing of pressure some party delegates had hoped for after the harsh messages of the "Iron" Chancellor Gordon Brown and the Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson.

Just the opposite. Instead of appealing to the party, its leader seemed to go out of his way to define the difference between the old and the new, between the Labour of opposition and the Labour in government. His government, he argued almost to the point of ramming it down delegates' throats, was doing what the Tories should have done on crime, welfare, interest rates and defence – only the Tories didn't have the courage.

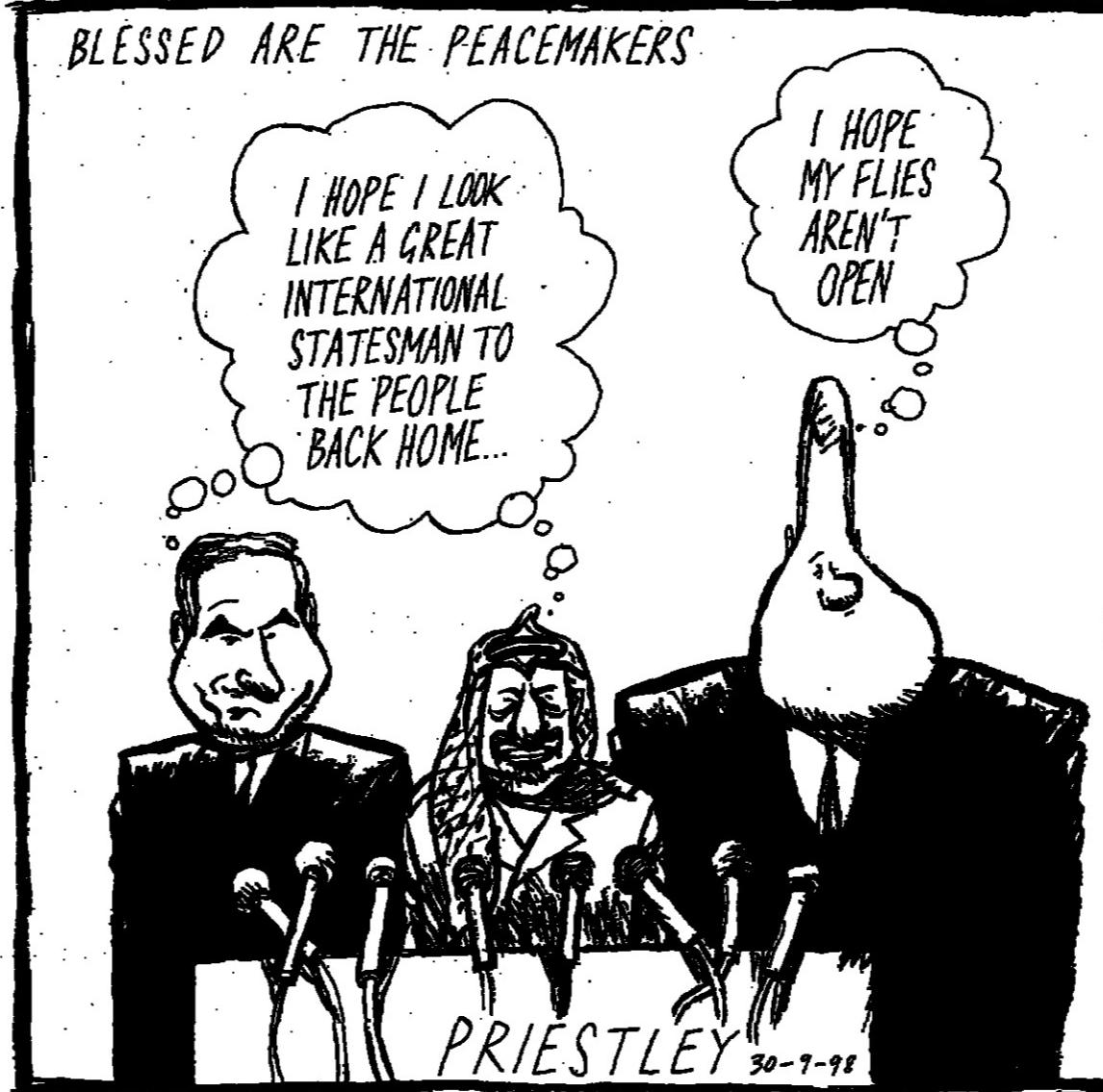
It was an uncompromising message, intended to convey the impression that Mr Blair cannot be deterred from his quest to modernise Britain (and now Europe, and tomorrow the world). In Blairville, there is no alternative – and the Prime Minister left the clear impression that he is now confident enough to make enemies, be they complaining manufacturers, belligerent farmers, independent-minded Scots, whingeing teachers. But it's hard to argue with many of his targets. If welfare is ever to be brought under control, there must be more efficient means of directing it to those most in need. If educational standards are to be improved, bad headmasters will have to be sacked, just as good headmasters must be given competitive salaries. There were, however, signs that he is still holding back on some of the most radical moves. Power-sharing with the Lib Dems and attempting to build a centre-left force that would last a generation has been put aside – postponed, as his spokesman says, in the better interests of wrapping it up with reform of the House of Lords – until after the next election.

Then there was Europe, the area where he sounded most tentative (but also most interesting). All the logic of Blair and Brown's position is that we should join the euro, and sooner rather than later. If England and Scotland are better for being in Britain, then Britain, in terms of his vision of community, is better for being part of the European monetary system. Blair seemed to believe that himself when delivering that part of his speech. Yet, disappointingly, he clearly felt unable to say it directly.

That was one disappointment. There were others as well, mostly sins of omission. There was no mention at all of tax (reform, let alone redistribution); no real appreciation of the seriousness of the management

# THE INDEPENDENT

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problems facing the Health Service; little about the questions of regulating financial flows, attacking monopolies, ensuring better service from the utilities, forcing the pace of corporation reform – all those detailed questions that must concern the management of economics today.

That, at heart, remains the worry about this man who has, unsurprisingly, become a model for modern politicians through Europe and even Japan. When he talks of community and compassion, even that politically dangerous concept of "family values", with a carefully worded warning to the press not to take advantage of it to poke into politicians' lives (slim chance), it is not a

gesture to the values of Labour. He really believes it, but there is still something curiously ill-defined about the philosophy behind his values. That matters in Europe. It matters for the National Health, single-parent benefits and unemployment support. It matters in looking to the future and grappling with the possibility of recession, when public spending shoots up and incomes fall.

That is the hard business of government and the hardness of prime ministers in dealing with it. So we welcome the uncompromising tone and the drive for reform, but worry still that the future is quite as certain as Tony sees it.

## Baseless optimism for the Middle East

IT IS hard to see why headlines on Palestinian-Israeli relations have suddenly burst into a chorus of hope. All that has been agreed by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, is that they will meet again in a couple of weeks. Even according to the most optimistic observers, any agreement reached in Washington in mid-October will only cover Israeli withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of occupied Palestinian territory.

If negotiations reach that stage, further obstacles will present themselves. Israel will have to decide whether it recognises a sovereign state called Palestine; the Palestinians will need to consider whether they insist on East Jerusalem being part of that state. It is a mark of how long it is since the last progress made under the Oslo peace accords – now deadlocked for almost 18 months – that anyone is becoming excited over "agreements" which do not even approach these problems.

The main players have problems with their own supporters. The fringe parties that sustain Mr Netanyahu seem unlikely to accept any deal, and Mr Arafat, for his part, has met Israeli demands so many times that his credibility among radical Palestinians has collapsed. It is farcical for Israel to demand security guarantees that, due to their own refusal to compromise, Mr Arafat is in no position to give.

The sudden upsurge in hopeful comment seems to owe much to the Clinton administration's media skills, pressed into service to divert attention from its domestic problems. We should not be taken in by this, nor by Mr Netanyahu's desperation to still international criticism. Progress is to be welcomed; but the conflict cannot be resolved by gestures from those with neither the power nor the will to reach a real agreement.

## History in briefs

A RASH of time-capsules is breaking out across the world. The Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, is burying one. And a French satellite is being launched that will send back pictures of the Earth after 50 years. The sad thing is that we do not seem to have very much to say. Islington's capsule will contain nothing but branded goods, including the definitive statement of our age: photographs of models wearing Marks & Spencer underwear. Our descendants may look on us with pity, rather than understanding.

# Old Labour is alive, well, and busy giving New Labour a kicking

RUMOURS OF the death of the Labour Party conference have turned out to be premature. This week's elections and debates have shown it to be very much alive and kicking. The election of the centre-left Grassroots Alliance candidates to four out of six constituency places on the national executive, and the robust performance of trade union leaders such as John Edmonds and Rodney Bickerstaffe in the discussion of economic policy, showed that the party conference remains a real forum of debate.

Earlier in the year with the cash for access scandal, we had a frostbite of what would fill the vacuum if ordinary party members and trade unionists were denied their say in the Labour party's policy-making process. Without the counter-weight of the Labour Party's democracy, the wholly unacceptable forces of big business would have almost total sway over the channels of access to ministers. Indications of what would replace democratic elections and conference votes, if the control freaks had their way, are all over Blackpool this week. Delegates' badges advertise Somerfield, and the Conference Guide is full of glossy ads for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance, British Nuclear Fuels and Nestlé, while other companies lay on lavish refreshments to lure delegates to fringe events that are devoted to boosting their firm's profit line.

The big vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate in the NEC elections was by no means simply a vote for the left. On its own, as the 31 per cent vote for Socialist Campaign Group candidates in 1994, 1995 and 1996 showed, the left represents little more than a third of the party membership. Last year,

faced with Peter Mandelson's first bid for elected office within the party, the left was joined by many from the centre and old Labour right, so that candidates opposed by the establishment received 39 per cent of the vote.

In the subsequent year, this process developed further to produce a real coalition of the left, the radical democrats and Hattersleyites of Labour Reform and soft-left readers of *Tribune*, in the Grassroots Alliance. People such as Andy Howell, chair of Labour Reform, argued that socialist values could be realised only via radical democratisation, while the left stressed that the free market alone would never deliver social justice. The result was convergence in an alliance whose views tallied with the concerns of most party members.

This is no cause for triumphalism. The election was not a victory for Labour Briefing or any other grouping. It was a victory for the decent party members who want to keep out of party Labour. The efforts of Neil Kinnock and David Aaronovitch to smear the candidates as far-left Trotskyites and distort the slate's political views simply did not wash with the ordinary members who know better. In fact, the Grassroots Alliance offended the sectarians on the left as much as it did some of the party establishment. People such as the far-left Socialist Organiser urged people not to vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate because it did not meet their misguided standards of ideological purity.

That is why people who have traditionally been as far apart on the political spectrum as myself and Roy Hattersley were delighted by the results and hope very much that the

action was directed against those who wrote the reports or the person who leaked it!

David Aaronovitch's piece in yesterday's *Independent* typifies this tendency to permanent conflict. Having wasted most of his early years in pointless factional wars inside the Communist Party, he suggests the Labour Party should adopt a similar approach to dissent. Whatever he may think, most voters will have recognised that issues such as interest rates, retaining public ownership of the Post Office and the impact of the pound's exchange rate on manufacturing industry are worth discussing in an open way.

Those whose factories are threatened by closure or who dread the monthly mortgage bill will have been delighted to see that attempts to turn the conference into a simple rubber stamp for policies made elsewhere seem to have failed. Of course, it would have been better if, at the end of the discussion, there had been a vote, because it undoubtedly would have resulted in support for lower interest rates and an exchange rate at which the British economy is able to compete.

That may not yet be the view of Gordon Brown or the Bank of England Governor, Eddie George, but the TUC, the CBI and most of the Labour Party conference delegates think differently.

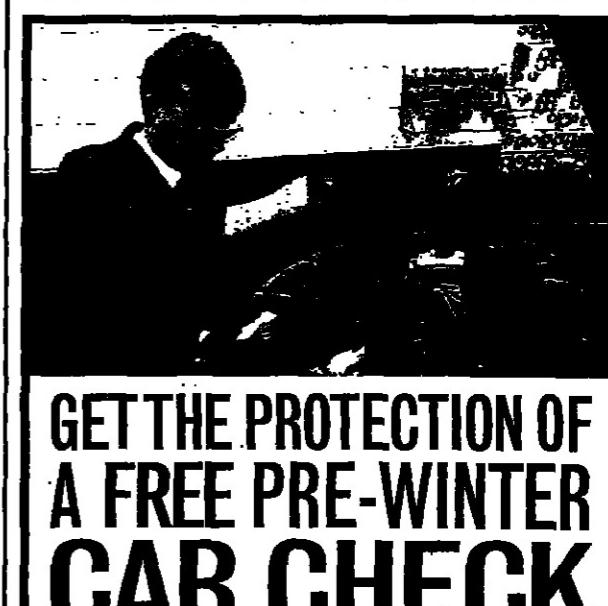
It is simply not true that the Treasury's orthodoxy is the only possible economic policy. Ten years ago, in *Livingstone's Labour*, I said that Labour should become the party of low inflation and sound money. I argued against endless devaluations as a way forward because they are manifestations of the problems in the UK

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to be seen as beautiful because of my disability, not in spite of it."  
Aimee Mullins,  
fashion model

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A man who does not lose his reason over certain things has none to lose."  
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing,  
German dramatist



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THIS HURRICANE is serious business. Even if Tampa Bay is spared a direct hit, Georges is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rains, flooding and sporadic tornadoes across a wide swath. It is not an experience for thrill-seekers or those who cannot persevere for days without the conveniences of modern living. Staying informed and prepared is a price we must pay to live on Florida's coast. The greatest danger we face is our own complacency. St Petersburg Times, Florida

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Comment on the devastation wrought by Hurricane Georges

hurricane season still has two months to go.  
*Newsweek*

A SENSE of dread hung over New Orleans as the city braced



itself for the arrival of Hurricane Georges. Tens of thousands of residents were fleeing along clogged roads. The escape routes were painfully few. In every part of the city there

was a palpable tension and a nervousness. By nightfall, the city had tucked itself in, locked its doors and huddled to await the storm. *New Orleans Times Picayune*

GEORGES' WESTERLY route caused more damage in Cuba than expected and, because it kept the storm over land longer, helped South Florida. Fidel Castro declared before the storm hit that because of the US economic embargo, Cuba would not accept storm aid from the States. That's just one more example of how US-Cuba relations have degenerated to the point of mutual lunacy. Georges was expected to grow in intensity and make another landfall, perhaps today. A hurricane's path is outside of human control. The response to a hurricane's devastation isn't. Those who were spared – this time – should help Georges' victims here and in the Caribbean. We were lucky. Now we can be generous. *Palm Beach Post*



# A case of incurable optimism



**ROBERT FISK**

'Why do we not rage against those who accept that our betters are right preferring missiles to medicine?'

YEARS BEFORE her death, my mother told me there must be no black ties at her funeral. "Everyone must wear bright clothes," she said. "There must be lots of flowers and happy hymns." And a few days ago, in the beautiful little church at Barming, just outside Maidstone, she had the funeral she asked for. There were mountains of flowers, not a black tie in sight – even the bearers wore casual suits – and the congregation sang "All things bright and beautiful". But my mother's death was not as she would have wished. And it was certainly not a death she deserved.

My father, Bill, was much older than Peggy, already 47 when he married her in 1946. He was borough treasurer of Maidstone and a son of the former first mate on the *Cutty Sark*, the sailing clipper that is now in permanent dry-dock at Greenwich. Peggy was 26, the daughter of well-to-do Kentish cafe-proprietors. Both had served their country. Bill was in the trenches of northern France in the First World War (Battle of Arras, 1918) and, as head of the local Home Guard in 1940, was asked by MI6 to lead a Maidstone resistance organisation to harass the Nazis after the expected German invasion; I still possess my father's ambitious plans for blowing up Maidstone East railway station and the adjoining high level bridge over the river Medway. My mother joined the RAF during the Battle of Britain, mending Spitfire radio sets at RAF Western Zoyland; her sister trained air gunners in radio navigation.

Peggy became a flame of optimism over my young life. "Everything will always work out alright in the end," she used to say to me. And when I once asked what was the point of struggling with my homework when we were all going to die one day, she replied: "By the time you grow up, they may have found a cure for that." In a way, my mother did believe in immortality and I took her incurable optimism with me, thousands of miles from Kent to Afghanistan, through the terrible battles of the Iran-Iraq war and to the conflict in Lebanon.

But there was another side to Peggy. As father fretted in retirement, she became a magistrate. I recall how one day, gently arguing with my father – whose views on criminal justice might have commanded themselves to Judge Jeffreys – Peggy said, quite sharply: "The accused often tell the truth – and I don't always trust policemen." As a small boy, the first book she urged me to read on my own was the *Diary of Anne Frank* – because she wanted me to understand the nature of goodness. During the Israeli siege of Beirut in 1982, she discovered a rare telephone line into the Lebanese capital from Maidstone and used it to tell me how she deplored the cru-



Peggy Fisk with her husband: she believed everything would work out alright in the end and that there might even be a cure for death

elty visited upon the Palestinians. She asked me repeatedly why governments spent so much money on guns.

She took up painting, water-colours and oils, still life and portraits. My father was a loyal man. He could be proud and generous but also censorious and authoritarian and he sometimes bullied Peggy, although his closest friends would not have known this. As she looked after him in his last years – he was to die in 1992, aged 93 – she talked quietly of the life of independence she would lead afterwards. She wanted to travel, to visit Lebanon and go to Ireland. She saw a lifetime of painting in front of her.

But just before my father died, she was told she had Parkinson's Disease and steadily lost the physical ability to live a dignified life – as surely as she maintained the will to survive. Within four years, she could scarcely speak or walk. So she communicated by pointing with a stick to letters on a piece of cardboard. Then she could no longer paint. She insisted on moving around the garden of her home in a wheelchair. Then Peggy became too ill to move. Her last attempt to paint ended when she threw her brush onto the floor in frustra-

tion. Almost to the end, she believed they would find a cure for Parkinson's – the same "they" who might also one day find a cure for mortality.

In her last days, Peggy lost the power to swallow or eat and caught pneumonia. When I arrived home, she was desperately trying to cough, apparently drowning in her own lungs, weeping with pain. And as I watched her dying, I remembered the cost of Bill Clinton's latest adventure in the Middle East; in all, the US government spent £70m in five minutes firing Cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan. How much had it spent on investigating Parkinson's disease? How much, for that matter, had the British government spent?

The day after she died – there was no glimmer of recognition or emotion, Peggy just stopped breathing – I called the Parkinson's Disease Society in London. Each year, they put up between £1m and £1.5m on research. So did the British government. But last year, an official for the society told me, the Medical Research Council stopped funding neurological research: "no reason given." I called New York to talk to one of the top Parkinson's groups in the United States. Around £30m

was spent by the US government on neurological research (not all on Parkinson's), another £1m by private organisations, around £2.5m by the US Defence Department (for veterans) and pharmaceutical companies around £27m. So we – the West – were spending less on Parkinson's research in a year than we spent in five minutes on weapons.

It was the kind of human folly Peggy would have understood. And at her funeral, I decided to point this out: I suggested to her friends who came to Barming church that we spent far too much time accepting cruel deaths, uncomplaining when money which might have cured cancer or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's was spent on weapons or military adventures. "Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be 'incurable', that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?" I asked. "If resources had been better spent," I said, "Peggy would not have been that coffin in front of the altar."

All this had an odd effect. You could have heard a flower petal drop when I was speaking. But the Rector, a kindly, intelligent man,

though evidently not from Church Militant, responded with a prayer, saying he would "commit this anger to God" – which, of course, entirely missed the point. Unless there is a Heavenly Post Office which redirects packages of anger to our presidents and prime ministers, there wasn't much point in bothering the Almighty. It was Peggy's friends I was addressing. Some of them had told me of their own relatives who were dying of supposedly incurable diseases; yet I felt afterwards that I had failed to make them understand as surely as I had the Rector.

They talked about Peggy being "at rest" now that she was no longer suffering. Letters arrived that spoke of Peggy's "release" – as if my mother wanted to die. I heard from one lady about "God's will" – which would suggest, if taken to its logical conclusion, that God was a sadist. If the message of Peggy's life was optimism and joy for others, the manner of her death – courtesy of our society's inverted values – was totally unnecessary. My father, an old-fashioned man, would have condemned my remarks on the church. My mother might have objected to their vehemence. But she would have wanted me to tell the truth.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

**HILARY ARMSTRONG**



The Housing Minister replies to our article calling for the demolition of bad housing estates

THIS GOVERNMENT is committed to healing the divisions in our country. Our report *Bringing Britain Together*, launched last week, sets out a co-ordinated strategy to transform the lives of those trapped in areas of deprivation.

Many of these, but by no means all, are council estates. They are far from being all tower blocks. Some of them have been pockets of poverty for many years. Turning these neighbourhoods round, making them work for the people who live there, will take enormous effort from both central and local government, and from local communities.

As your leader reminded us, bold social experiments can become expensive flops. The key to reviving these neighbourhoods is putting people, not places, at the heart of the regeneration strategy. Our proposals are designed to help local people to take control over their own future.

In most cases, the communities can be turned round through renovation, or reduction to a human scale, rather than demolition – but if the right long-term solution is to demolish bad, unhealthy or unwanted housing, we will support that action. It is too pessimistic, however, to believe that this is the only solution. It is often the community that residents want rebuilt, not the housing.

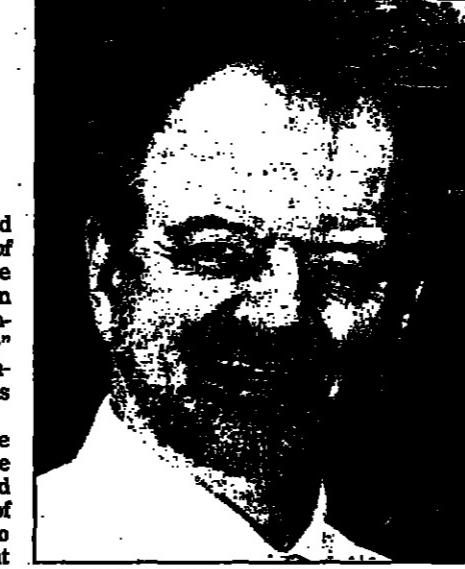
A good example of this is Holly Street, where the report was launched, where tower blocks have been made places where people want to live. There is no quick fix to these problems and no single answer. But, by mobilising resources at national, local and community levels, setting targets to improve the record of these poorest neighbourhoods on jobs, schools, housing and crime within five years, we can start to close the gap that has pushed too many to the margins of society.

## Left to his own devices

### WEDNESDAY BOOK

ROBIN COOK

BY JOHN KAMPFNER, VICTOR GOLLANZ, £16.99



Robin Cook is no "Flash" Gordon

position, despite holding one of the great offices of state. Cook was already out in the cold to a surprising extent while in opposition. The account of the days before and after Labour's landslide victory is striking, when Cook was not even able to choose his number two as minister for Europe.

Two weeks before the election, Cook was told, "by Blair's aide Jonathan Powell", that, if Labour won, he could not keep his deputy, Joyce Quin. On the day after the election, Cook spent half an hour with the new Prime Minister, and asked to have Clive Soley or Peter Hain instead. Kampfner comments mildly that these were "unlikely" choices: there was no prospect that Blair would accept either of these low-ranking MPs, whose main qualification was their leftish

position. The next day, Cook read that Blair had offered the job to Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, and later he was told that in fact it would be filled by Doug Henderson. The new Foreign Secretary seems to have been passive throughout. He "accepted the decision in good grace" despite thinking that the appointment of Henderson, as an ally of his rival Gordon Brown, was a "genuine threat".

There is a lot of rivalry with Brown in the book, and the impression given is all the more poisonous because of Kampfner's sober and factual style. The picture is of a collection of fragile egos that occasionally try to be nice to one another, but are usually smitten and retreat into the nursing of grievances. It may be that one of Cook's first mistakes as Foreign Secretary was driven by a desire not to be outdone in propaganda terms by the Chancellor, who was branded "Flash" Gordon within five days of the election for his boldness in making the Bank of England independent. But Brown had been planning his coup for months with the full support of Blair, whereas Cook had nothing in his cupboard apart from the well-trailed end of the ban on GCHQ trade unions and the signing of the Social Chapter.

The idea of a Foreign Office "mission statement" came from one of his special advisers, Cook agreed, and it was prepared within 10 days. At its launch on 12 May, Cook proclaimed that Britain would "once again be a force for good in the world... our foreign policy must have an ethical dimension". It was a hostage to fortune, and the ransom was soon demanded. Kampfner's sympathy for his subject does not prevent him quoting at length from a 1978 attack on the Labour Government's sale of arms to the "repressive" Indonesian regime by the *New Statesman*'s defence correspondent, who would 20 years later be a Labour Foreign Secretary approving the sale of arms to the same country.

Kampfner's original interest in writing the book was "the role of the radical left in the Labour Party under Tony Blair", but he ended up writing something much more interesting: the story of a very clever man who has never been quite in the right place or the right time. Cook wanted to be Chancellor, but his Keynesianism – rather than his antipathy to Brown – rules that out. The failure of Cook's shares to rise partly reflects the fact that the radical left does not have much of a role under Tony Blair.

The one issue on which Cook's democratic radicalism has any hope of influencing the Government is that of electoral reform, but Cook – having launched the dialogue with the Liberal Democrats – is now out of the loop on domestic policy. So that hope has been all but snuffed out.

This impressively well-researched book paints a picture of a front-rank politician who thought he could rely on the quality of intellectual argument to win through, but who realised, probably too late, that suffering fools was necessary too.

JOHN RENTOUF



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### WEDNESDAY POEM

O TASTE AND SEE  
BY DANNIE ABSE

Because of a kiss on the forehead  
in the long Night's infirmary,  
through the red wine let light shine deep.

Because of the thirtysix just men  
that so stealthily roam this earth  
raise high the glass and do not weep.

Who says the world is not a wedding?  
Couples, in their oases, lullabye.  
Let glass be full before they sleep.

This poem comes from Dannie Abse's new collection  
*Arcadia, One Mile* (Hutchinson, £6.99)

# Casper Wrede

THE THEATRE director Casper Wrede is best remembered as the man who, with Michael Elliott, James Maxwell and later, Graham Murray, created the company that has eventually emerged in Manchester as the Royal Exchange Theatre Company.

The building that houses this company, the old Cotton Exchange, was blown askew by the IRA one day in June 1996; but now, refurbished and expanded, it is due to re-open to the public on 31 November. Amidst the celebrations, many will feel the sadness of Casper Wrede's absence.

He was born heir to the title Baron Wrede of Elma in 1929, in Värtberg, in the far-eastern region of Finland known as Karelia which the Russians annexed in the Thirties. At the age of 15 he found himself armed and fighting with the Germans against the Russians to recover Finnish soil. A few months later, he was fighting with the Russians against the retreating forces of Hitler's Third Reich.

The Second World War over, Wrede realised that life in an industrial family business, within an almost feudal society, was not for him. (Several decades later, he was to marry his childhood friend Karin Bang, who remained his loyal and devoted wife to the end.) His early influences were an aunt who ran the Swedish-speaking theatre in Helsinki, and the friendship of Amund Henningsen, a mysterious guru-figure with whom he travelled around Norway and whose influence over his life was considerable. Wrede was still only 21 when, at Amund's suggestion, he travelled to England to enrol as a student on the director's course in the newly formed Old Vic School, where Glen Byam Shaw, George Devine and Michel St Denis were his tutors.

It was during his time there, in 1951, that he and a group of fellow students returned very late to their afternoon class with the excuse that he had been delayed by his marriage to Dilys Hamlett, one of the school's most promising actresses. A year or so later his Edinburgh Festival production of Ibsen's *Miss Julie*, with Maggie Smith in the title role, moved to Oxford, bringing about his first meeting with the di-

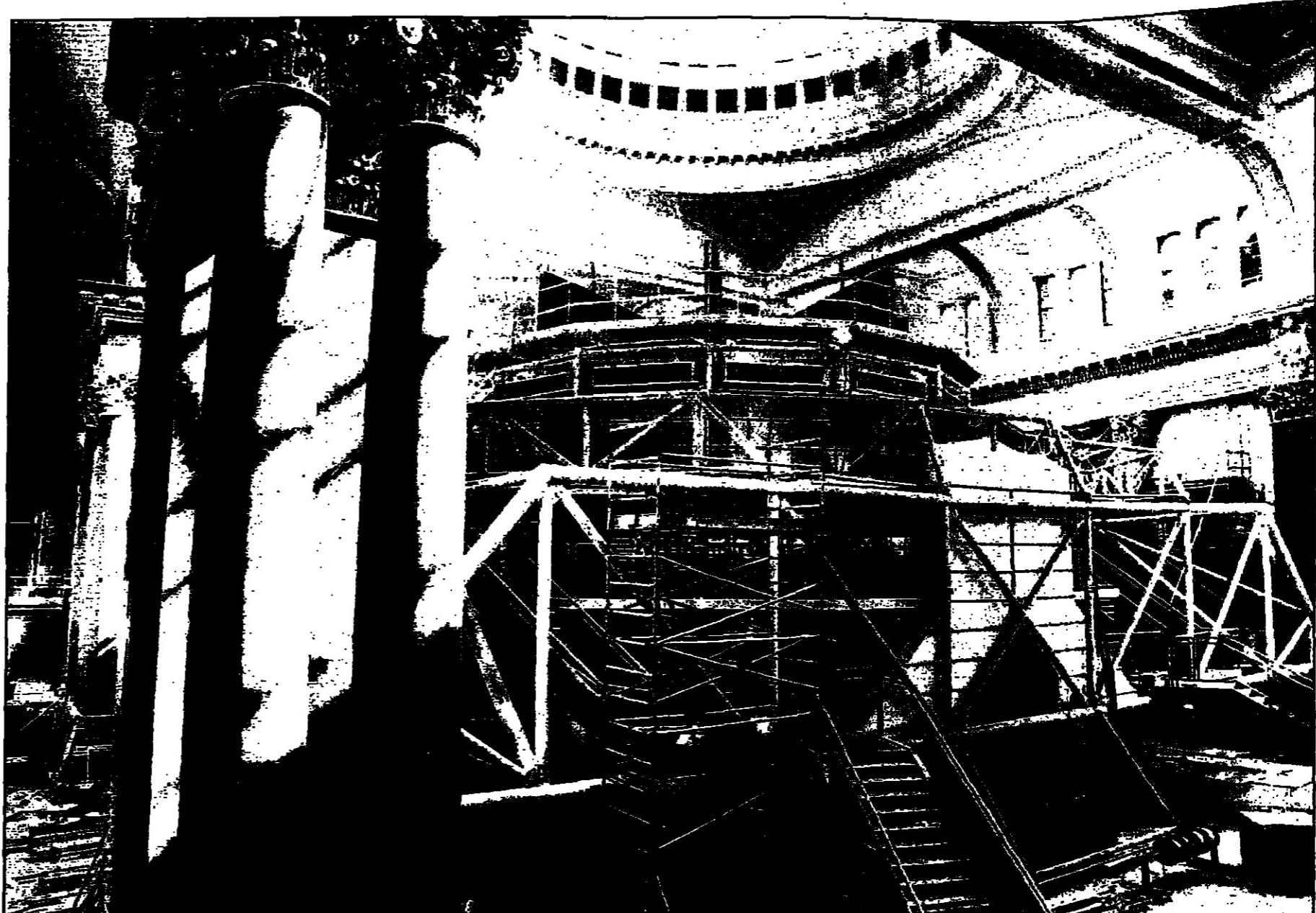


*Yes, well, you see my dear, it is not so much this, it is rather more like this. You know – yes, yes – you know?*

rector Michael Elliott, with whom he was to work closely for many decades. Wrede spent two years with the Oxford University Dramatic Society (Ouds) as a professional producer.

While television was still in its stuttering infancy in the mid-Fifties, Wrede and Elliott brought to the small screen for the BBC such classics as *Twelfth Night*, Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, Euripides' *The Women of Troy* and Ibsen's *The Lady from the Sea*.

Also for television, Wrede directed Laurence Olivier in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*; Edith Evans in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, Tom Courtenay in Alan Ayckbourn's *Time and Time Again*, and all the early television plays by Ronald Harwood. He also made documentaries, which included *The Summer in Gossen* by Michael Meyer on the subject of Ibsen's old age, and



The 700-seater spaceship theatre of the Manchester Royal Exchange, co-founded by Wrede, in its final stages of restoration. It reopens in November. Joel Fildes

Sibelius, a portrait of his fellow countryman.

Wrede's films for the cinema screen include *Private Potter* (1962), starring Tom Courtenay, *The Barber of Stamford Hill* (1963), *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1971), and *Ransom* (1985), with Sean Connery. In 1969 Wrede founded the 59 Theatre Company which in a nationally acclaimed season brought to the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, such work as his own production of Georg Büchner's *Danton's Death* (translated by James Maxwell), the premiere of Alun Owen's *The Rough and Ready Lot*, and Elliott's production of Ibsen's *Brand*. This was the beginning of a theatre movement which has continued up to the present. The 59 Theatre Company was the next stage, launched at the Edinburgh Festival in 1968 by Wrede's produc-

tion of *Hamlet*, starring Tom Courtenay.

Wrede's method as a director was quite unique. He could somehow make you "find" your performance without "pushing" you, as the following story illustrates. In the 1968 *Hamlet* I was attempting Horatio. With 10 days to go to opening night, I nervously approached Wrede and explained that the essential core of the role seemed to be eluding me. A twinkle came into his eye as he explained in his high-pitched Scandinavian tones: "Yes, well, you see my dear, it is not so much this" – and he held his right hand at right angles to his left – "it is rather more this" – and he switched hands. "You know – yes, yes – you know." I didn't exactly know, but from then on, his apparent confidence in my efforts meant that I began to enjoy the search.

The 1969 Theatre Company kept

going for several years, until after much searching for a permanent home, the old Manchester Cotton Exchange was found. It was derelict – knee-deep in rubble upstairs and empty downstairs – but Wrede and Elliott saw its possibilities, and commissioned young architects to design a theatre in the upstairs section.

At last, in 1976, the 700-seater

major interests in European drama and new work by British writers; indeed he was instrumental in establishing the Mobil Playwriting Competition launched in 1984.

He personally directed over 20 productions at the Exchange; among them the British premiere of Heinrich von Kleist's *The Prince of Homburg* in 1976; Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* in 1983; his own adaptation of Nadezhda Mandelstam's *Hope Against Hope* (1983); Ronald Harwood's *The Family*, with Paul Scofield, in 1978; an award-winning production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* in 1985; a double bill of *Oedipus the King* and *Oedipus at Colonus*, the company's 100th production in 1987; Ian Heggie's *American Bagpipes* in 1988; and Robin Glendinning's *Donny Boy* in 1990 and my own *Class K* in partnership with Greg Horsow in 1988.

He was too wise a man to tell actors how to act. He could draw from a cast a harmonised performance as if by magic. He was a very serious man who was a stranger to struggle – and this seemed to give him a special understanding of the individual human mind and heart. When he laughed, it was with joyous tears in his eyes.

TREVOR PEACOCK

Casper Gustaf Kenneth Wrede, theatre director: born Värtberg, Finland 8 February 1929; married 1951 Dilys Hamlett (one son; marriage dissolved 1976), 1982 Karin Bang (two daughters); died Helsinki 28 September 1998.

## Cecil Hewett

THE DATING of timber-framed buildings was revolutionised from the early 1960s by Cecil Hewett.

Before that time, there had been a reluctance to attribute timber buildings that lacked an obvious historical context to any time before the 16th or 15th centuries. Two buildings which were to be central to Hewett's work, the barley and wheat barns erected by the religious order of the Knights Templar of their Essex manor of Cressing Temple, were for instance both put by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, in their county-wide survey of 1922, to the 16th century.

Hewett came to the problem from a practical background which led him to pioneer the study of the evolution of carpentry joints. He realised that their use must have been determined by the passage of time and fashionable trends amongst carpenters. At Cressing Temple, he was able to prove this, identifying the features of what are now termed "archaic carpentry", namely straight timbers, passing braces, notched-lap joints and splayed scarf joints.

His only precedent in this research was the Frenchman Henri Denœux, whose research on church and cathedral carpentry indicated an 11th- to 13th-century date for notched-lap joints. Confirmation of

Hewett's theories came from carbon 14 dating which put the Cressing barley and wheat barns to c1200 and c1275 respectively.

Hewett's early appreciation of timber-framed buildings first came from his father, a woodworker, and by walking and bicycling round Essex from his childhood home at Landon. This experience of acquiring knowledge first-hand set the pattern for his later research in which he formulated his own ideas based on knowledge and logic irrespective of traditional received academic wisdom.

After National Service from 1944 until 1948, he trained in drawing, painting, silversmithing and cabinet-making at the former Chelmsford School of Art and at University College, Swansea. These crafts he taught in Essex schools for 19 years before taking up a post with the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in 1972, moving to Essex County Council's Historic Buildings Section in 1974.

Hewett's redating of the Cressing barns and other buildings did not go down too well everywhere, and proved to be a bombshell amongst the historical and architectural fraternity. For a number of years, researchers were split over his work, but gradually his ideas have gained acceptance, especially with the coming of the more precise notched-lap joints. Confirmation of

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the opposition into the mainstream. In the months before his death, unknown attackers beat Latifi twice on the street. Despite these incidents he often went without his government-provided bodyguards.

Latifi was born in the Leninabad region of north-western Tajikistan into the family of a government official. After graduating from the journalism faculty of Leningrad University, he worked in a publishing house before joining Tajikistan's Komsomol newspaper for the Young Communist League. In 1966 he became an official of the Tajik Komsomol Central Committee.

The following year he returned to

journalism, becoming a special correspondent in neighbouring Uzbekistan for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the national Komsomol paper. His satirical work led to promotion in 1971, when he began reporting from across Soviet Central Asia. In 1978 he became the Tajikistan correspondent for the Soviet daily *Pravda*, for which he worked for the next 16 years.

With the massive changes unleashed in the Soviet Union by Mikhail Gorbachev, Latifi turned to politics. In 1988 he became deputy chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers, with responsibility for science, culture, education and sport. He resigned in 1991 and once again fell

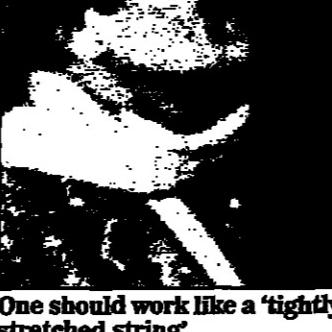
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Latifi went into exile, living in neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran until 1997, with brief periods in Russia. It was in Moscow that he set up the Co-ordinating Centre for Democ-

tic Forces, a group supported financially by an international journalists' union. In 1993 he chaired the first two rounds of inter-Tajik peace talks held abroad.

He served on the UTO council and became a close aide to the deputy opposition leader Akbar Turajonzoda, the Tajik Muslim leader who turned against the Communists and had to flee with the collapse of the Islamist/democratic government. Turajonzoda was appointed first deputy prime minister in Tajikistan's coalition government earlier this year.

Despite Tajikistan's self-inflicted disaster of civil war and political up-



One should work like a 'tightly stretched string'

scientific technique of tree-ring dating.

Hewett's ability to illustrate his ideas with arresting sketches and drawings was noticed by the Essex historian and academic the late A.C. (Gus) Edwards who realised that, to reach the outside world, Hewett would need to write about his findings. Edwards took him in hand and, as a result, the new ideas reached Germany, Scandinavia and especially the United States where

Hewett was, and is, greatly admired. His numerous publications have reached a wide audience, and he contributed to several television programmes, notably *In Search of the Master Carpenters*, with Irene Cutforth.

It was most fortunate that in 1980 Hewett published his major work, *English Historic Carpentry*,

his best and most useful assessment of vernacular carpentry, which is still selling well today. Shortly after this book appeared, he suffered a severe stroke that set him back almost totally, except that, even though unable to communicate in any way, he remembered all his knowledge. Gradually, through sheer willpower and battling against appalling frustration, he regained most of his facilities. Hewett had always thought that one should work, as he said, like a "tightly stretched string" in order to extract the most from one's mind. It is possible that this approach to life accelerated the onset of his stroke and of his final illness.

Cecil Hewett was a rather private man who did much of his early research whilst he was teaching. He was an inspired potter, silversmith and modelmaker, and there is a panache about all his work that is unforgettable. His style of illustration has been much copied. He sometimes would make a model to

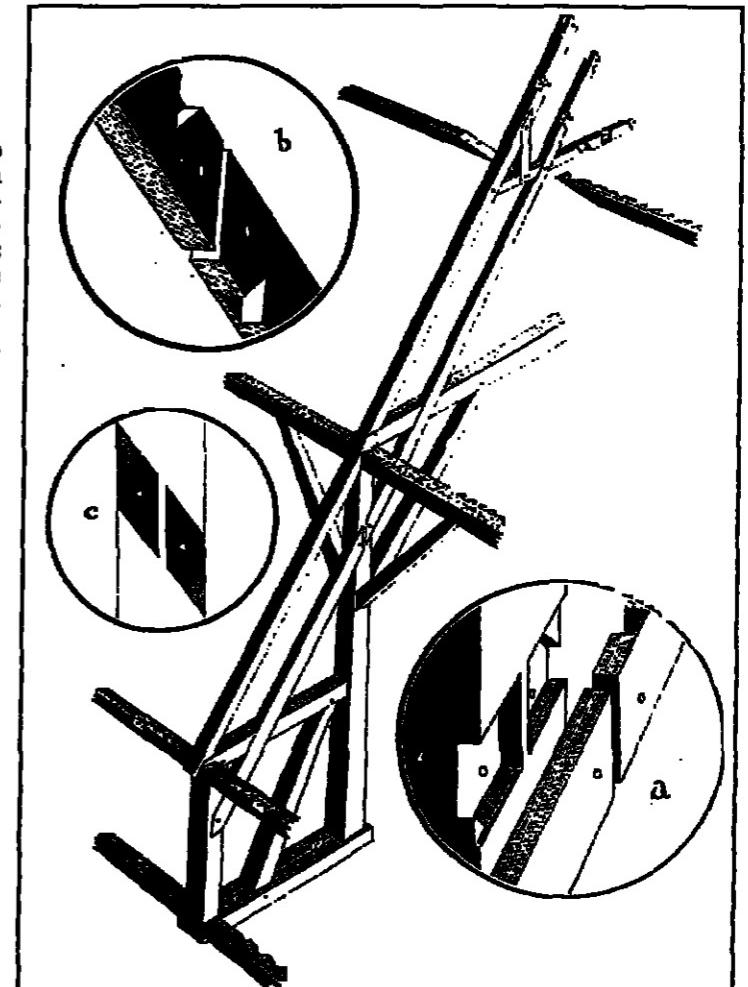
demonstrate a point. He did this to good effect when he confounded a committee appointed in the Seventies to work out the age and construction methods of the famous round table at Winchester Castle

reputed to be connected with King Arthur. Hewett appeared at the next meeting with a hatbox containing a complete, fully jointed model which he could wave around to demonstrate the rigidity of the structure.

The Science Museum in London has a number of models of Essex buildings which they commissioned from him in the early days. Cecil Hewett's influence shows through in every listed building report on timber structures written these days. It is not many people of whom it can be said that they fundamentally changed the whole mode of thinking of experts in a whole field of study. Academic recognition only came late but was timely; in April this year Anglia Polytechnic University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Technology.

A. GIBSON  
and D. ANDREWS

Cecil Alec Hewett, craftsman and historian of carpentry; born Landon, Essex 26 September 1926; married 1957 Pat Burge (two sons); died Chelmsford, Essex 23 July 1998.



'Archaic carpentry': Cressing wheat barn, c1260, cross frame – a drawing by Hewett

## Otakon Latifi

OTAKHON LATIFI, who was gunned down outside his flat in the centre of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, is the latest victim in the unrest that has troubled this Central Asian country since it gained independence in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Latifi's career, from young Komsomol official to *Pravda* journalist to politician to exile to politician again to assassination victim, mirrored the psychological and physical upheavals of many Tajiks as they came to cope with the dramatic political changes that saw the Soviet system dissolve into a bitter five-year civil war.

Although a supporter of the Uni-

versity, Latifi remained an optimist, believing Tajiks could themselves rebuild the country they had done so much to destroy. In 1991 he had started a private company called Sindbad, designed to bring Western tourists, particularly mountaineers, to Tajikistan to discover its incredible natural beauty. The civil war destroyed that business, but not Otakon Latifi's faith in his country.

FELIX CORLEY

Otakon Latifi, journalist and politician; born Pendjikent, Tajikistan, Soviet Union 17 March 1936; married (two sons); died Dushanbe 22 September 1998.

## Professor Charles Kembell

**CHARLES KEMBELL** was not just a brilliant academic chemist, but made outstanding contributions to the universities he worked in and to the scientific community in general.

Born in Edinburgh in 1923, the only child of a dental surgeon, Kembell was educated at Edinburgh Academy. There he was rescued by a perceptive form-master from the Classics, towards which bright boys tended to be directed but for which he felt little aptitude. Only two years later he won an Exhibition on the science side into Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first class Honours degree in Chemistry in 1943.

His postgraduate work in the Colloid Science department was on the adsorption of organic compounds on mercury surfaces; this led to the award of a research fellowship at Trinity in 1946. During a year at Princeton in 1946-47 in association with Professor H.S. Taylor FRS, this interest in surface chemistry was directed into the field of heterogeneous catalysis which ultimately became his chemical home.

After Kembell's return to Trinity, he was tempted into the post of Junior Bursar in 1949. Here, as later, he combined productive science with substantial administrative contributions, as well as participating in the good things of college life. Indeed, after a rope declined to take his weight when he was demonstrating a fire escape device to a colleague, a notice appeared in college which said, "Visitors are requested not to feed the Junior Bursar".

After a move to the Physical Chemistry department in 1949, Kembell studied exchange reactions of hydrocarbons by mass spectrometry (separating molecules by molecular weight). He found that the major product from the exchange of propane with deuterium over rhodium flint was the perdeutero-compound - a surprising discovery which was the starting-point for much fruitful work in the catalytic field. In 1951, he was appointed to a Demonstratorship in Physical Chemistry, obtained a College Lectureship a little later and was awarded the prestigious Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

His significant work at Cambridge led to his appointment to the Chair of Chemistry at Queen's, Belfast, where he continued his very productive work on catalysis. This brought various medals and prizes, including the Corday-Morgan medal of the Chemical Society, culminating in 1965 with election to the Royal Society. He had a successful spell as Dean of Science from 1957 to 1960 and later took on additional duties as Vice-President to assist the Vice-Chancellor in the organisation of the expansion of the university, a further opportunity for exercising his skill in devising creative administrative solutions, particularly for the fair distribution of resources.

After 12 years at Queen's he returned to Scotland in 1966 to take up the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh. Here his research on catalytic reactions and intermediates flourished, making perceptive use of new techniques as they became available and deepening the positive collaboration with industry which had begun in Belfast, particularly



Kembell, centre, Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh University, presenting awards to winners of an essay competition from Perth and Dundee, 1979

with ICL. He introduced two new concepts into the rather traditional departmental organisation: a rotating leadership and the use of an academic post to lighten the administrative load which fell on the teaching staff. He also reorganised the teaching particularly in the first year, initiating a very successful course for students who were not taking Chemistry further.

He was Dean of Science in Edinburgh

the Royal Society of Chemistry, in whose formation by the unification of the first two he played a major part. He was heavily involved in the publications activities of the societies, finally as chairman of the Publications and Information Board of the Royal Society of Chemistry; here as in other work his business acumen made its mark.

Kembell served on numerous other committees and advisory boards, in

active science), true to the contention in his presidential address to the Royal Institute of Chemistry that those over 60 should not be trusted to run chemistry departments. His many duties after retirement included Presidency of the Royal Society of Edinburgh from 1988 to 1991.

After his return to Scotland he found great pleasure and friendship in hill walking, the annual meetings of his catalytic group at the university's field centre at Firbush did much for the physical as well as intellectual health of the department. He celebrated his 100th Munro with champagne in 1981, a celebration which a reduction in his score due to a revision of the Munro tables enabled him to repeat in 1983.

PETER SCHWARZ

**Charles Kembell**, chemist, born Edinburgh 27 March 1923; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1946-54; University Demonstrator in Physical Chemistry, Cambridge University 1951-54; Assistant Lecturer 1951-54; Professor of Physical Chemistry, Queen's University, Belfast 1954-65; FRS 1965; Professor of Chemistry, Edinburgh University 1966-83; Dean of the Faculty of Science 1975-78; Fellow 1982-88; Honorary Fellow 1988-96; CBE 1991; married 1956 Kay Purvis (one son, two daughters); died Tyngham, East Lothian 4 September 1998.

*After a rope failed to take his weight when he was demonstrating a fire escape device, a notice appeared in college - Visitors are requested not to feed the Junior Bursar'*

from 1975 to 1978. This was a difficult time financially for the universities and again he devised ingenious and fair solutions for the distribution of resources - and maintained morale. As Vice-Chancellor under him, I was initially a little scared of his efficiency, but his warmth and friendliness soon assayed my fears.

Meantime he made major contributions to the running of various scientific societies, including the Royal Institute of Chemistry (he was President from 1974 to 1976), the Chemical Society, and

including the Physical Sciences Subcommittee of the University Grants Committee, and particularly appreciated a seven-year spell as a governor of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, having spent school holidays on a farm. His move after retirement to the fertile agricultural environment of Tyngham in East Lothian enabled him and his wife, Kay, to develop and enjoy a flourishing garden.

In 1983, Kembell retired from the Chair of Chemistry (though not from ac-

which you can trawl the Internet for the most abstruse piece of information.

Can you imagine? A polite phone call. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, but here at the Central Health Office we see your purchase of chocolate has gone up and is spread over three different retail outlets. Your doctor has been informed. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, Tax Control here. Your cash withdrawals over the last three months are not accounted for through normal electronic channels. We are required to remind you of the penalties incurred by those employing unlicensed builders and paying them in cash... And so on.

Marvellous. Who could possibly object? The economy will be run more efficiently, our health needs properly assessed, cheating for benefits will be a thing of the past, and cheating on taxes too... and that's barely scratching the surface. Who are we that we should worry? Potential criminals, for Christ's sake? Anarchists, for Christ's sake?

There's no third way. Either you believe in the State's right to run things (that is, our lives) as efficiently as possible in the interests of the multinationals, I mean for the greatest good of the greatest number, or you don't. Whose side are you on? How can you justify your resistance? Are we sufficiently upset by it all to be bothered? As a romantic optimist with anarchist leanings (i.e. English) the answer for me is yes, perhaps, maybe. Yes.

Julian Rathbone's latest novel, *Trajectories* (Victor Gollancz, £16.99), is set in 2035

ly makes their pursuit so rewarding.

This year we are in no danger of being spoilt. On the contrary, the shortage of prey has restored the excitement of the hunt and brought out the worst in competitors. Everybody, I suspect, has two or three favourite places in his or her mind's eye, and everybody gives evasive or positively misleading information about them is questioned. "No, no," one says apologetically when a hunter returns empty-handed. "I meant you to turn left after you'd gone through that gate, not right..."

In no other pursuit does the maxim "first come, first served" apply so literally. All practitioners wear their salt are cut soon after dawn, and all carry knives with which to cut off the bottoms of the stalks, thereby leaving behind the earth, mud and grass which infest the cook if brought home.

Why get so worked up? I hear someone asking. Why creep furtively about the fields in the half-light, groping with apprehension and jealousy? If you must have mushrooms, why not go and buy some from the nearest supermarket?

Such questions miss the point, which is that in searching for wild food one reverts for a while to the primitive activity on which our ancestors' lives depended. To travel back into the distant past not only produces a delicious breakfast; it also renewes contact, in a thoroughly therapeutic manner, with an earlier and far less frenetic stage of our evolution.

From *'The Independent'*, Saturday 30 September 1989. The Leo Report returns tomorrow

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Margaret, President, the Guide Association, gives a reception at Kensington Palace for Queen's Guides.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Coldstream Guards.

### GARDENERS' COMPANY

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners held their annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service yesterday at All Hallows by the Tower, London EC3. The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, preached the sermon. A Reception and Supper were held afterwards at Trinity House, London EC3.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

### BIRTHDAYS

Sir Stanley Bailey, former Chief Constable of Northumbria, 72; The Rev Gordon Barratt, former Principal, the National Children's Home, 78; Lord Belstead, former government minister, 66; Sir Derek Birkin, former chairman, RIBA, 68; General Sir Edward Burgess, 71; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 57; Viscount Cranborne, former government minister, 52; Mr Hilton Dawson MP, 45; Professor Sir Eric Denmarin, marine biologist, 75; Miss Angie Dickinson, actress, 67; Sir Peter Fawcett, former Commissioner, Bechuanaland, 83; Mr Stafford Gadd, chairman, J.S. Gadd Cie SA, Geneva, 64; Mrs Teressa Gorman MP, 67; Mr Anthony Green, painter, 56; Mr Alan Hacker, clarinettist and conductor, 60; The Right Rev Patrick Harris, Bishop of Southwell, 64; Miss Deborah Kerr, actress, 77; Miss Rula Lenska, actress, 51; Mr Johnny Mathis, ballad singer, 63; Mr Ian Ogilvy, actor, 55; Mr Andrew Palmer, former ambassador to the Holy See, 61; Mr John Spiers, publisher, 57; Mr Stewart Steven, former Editor, the London Evening Standard, 63; Sir Peter Yarrington, former Chairman, Sports Council, 74.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Etienne de Condillac, philosopher, 1715; William

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

## GAZETTE

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Canaletto (v): Canaletto in England", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth Millar, "Early French Mezzotints", 2pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Eating, Drinking and Making Merry in the 17th Century", 11.30am. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Titian's Perseus and Andromeda", 1pm. Royal Academy of Arts: Nicholas Watkins, "Ceramics, Satyr and the Mediterranean: Picasso, Matisse and Miró", 1pm. Royal Society of British Artists at the Mall Galleries, London SW1: Julian Halsby, "John Singer Sargent", 7pm.

### DINNERS

Defence and Security Forum: Lady Olga Mailland, President of the Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Lt-Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, Chief of Joint Operations, was the guest speaker. Col Philip Howes, Chairman, also spoke.

WHO EVER used some cologne, logged by the OED? *Swinglact* was invented by Bernard Berenson's brother-in-law, that languid man of letters Logan Pearsall Smith whose *Triviz* is much admired by Gore Vidal.

According to Peter Conrad, *swinglact* means "the buoyant negotiation of the vanities and temptations of

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

swinglact, n.

society... a term which sug-

gests the eternal resilience of the picaresc hero".

Pearsall Smith had in mind

that enigmatic American in

wartime London, the art critic Stuart Preston.

Only Kenneth Clark appears to have used it since when he recalled his boom years which had as little to do with talent as Australia's gold stories have to do with the precious metal in a mine... absurd as it sounds, I think that the real explanation was our innocence.

Will his son ever have recourse to it?

# You ask the questions

(Such as: Melvyn Bragg, which waterproof fabric do you recommend for outdoor sex?)

**D**ozen of arts broadcasting Labour peer and presenter of *The South Bank Show*, Melvyn Bragg, 58, was born in Wigton, Cumbria. He went to Oxford in 1957 and then joined the BBC as a general trainee. He published his first novel at the age of 26. Married with three children, Melvyn lives in London and Cumbria.

How do you now 'start the week'? John O'Byrne, Dublin. Relaxed.

Did it embarrass you winning the 'Literary Review's' Bad Sex in Fiction Prize? If sex is a stumbling block for many fiction writers, which author's descriptions do you think are the most convincing? Jonathan Fowles, Peterborough. Yes, even though Auberon Waugh confessed that he had given it to me just for publicity.

I think I came quite near writing well about sex in *A Time To Dance*. I think I can improve on that but do not know whether the opportunity will arise. It is ridiculously difficult. Updike does it very well but he seems to leave out love. DH Lawrence, given his context, is still marvellous. The problem is pornography. It is utterly reductionist but, like all propaganda, very sure of itself. The love-in-sex experience is poetry to pornography and much more difficult.

a) Who's been your most interesting interviewee?  
b) Who's been the most difficult to interview?  
Jayne Grunt, Brighton.  
a) Too many. Mailer, Bacon, Bellow, Heaney, Bergman, Lean...  
b) Dennis Potter, Nureyev.

As a Labour sympathiser, how can you justify an institution like the House of Lords?  
Tim Nelson, Colchester.  
I can't. That is why I have taken the job to help change it radically. I hope.

Do you believe in God?  
Henry R Peterson, Camden.  
I believe there is an originating intelligence and pattern, maybe with a purpose.

Given the choice of anyone in history, who would you most like to appear on the 'South Bank Show'? Simon Marks, Walsall.  
Socrates.

Which was the last restaurant you visited and what did you eat?  
Catherine Poole, Ipswich.  
San Daniele, which is next to the Arsenal ground. Italian Salad and then John Dory.

What hair products do you use?  
Suzanne Brooks, Elton.  
Very little. Occasionally I use a bit of transparent goo to stamp it down.



How would you introduce yourself if you were the subject of a 'South Bank' retrospective?  
Dominic Lewis, Nottingham.

A clear nose so here's the head. Best known as Editor/Presenter of Arts programmes. Wide spectrum. Tells story about artists through their works and well-made films as lucidly as possible. Novelist, mainly regional. Then set out one or two themes with which to kick the programme off.

Do you regret not having devoted yourself solely to writing?  
Lesley Price, Manchester.  
Sometimes. But I did not earn enough money to keep myself and my family as a writer until my mid-40s, by which time I was heavily involved in, and enjoying, being an arts editor. The two do not clash, although it may be a problem.

Which author do you admire most?  
Dan Hamilton, Streatham.  
Shakespeare.

What's the biggest advantage of having a title - is it on your cheque book?  
Jeremy Ross, Stevenage.  
I have discovered no advantages of it so far. My cheque book will stay unaltered and some day, I hope, will again be accurate.

Goretex, Barbour or cagoule - what do you recommend for lying out on for sex in the afternoon?  
Leo Daniels, Epsom.  
I don't do adverts.

What do you think about Carlton Television taking over Arsenal?  
S Penrice, Highgate.

I am surprised these takeovers have been so long in coming. The clubs have a duty to defend the fans and I hope they take that seriously.

What's your biggest weakness?  
What's your biggest strength?  
Michelle Potterson, Richmond.

Please send any questions you would like to put to singer Björk and feminist author Camille Paglia to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-233 2182; or e-mail them to: [youquestions@independent.co.uk](mailto:youquestions@independent.co.uk) by lunchtime on Friday, 2 October.

**YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS**

NEXT WEEK: BJÖRK, THEN FOLLOWING, CAMILLE PAGLIA

I'll keep that to myself.  
No idea.

What do you count as your proudest achievement?  
Katy O'Donnell, Isle of Wight.

The children (sorry for the embarrassment).

If you had a day of leisure tomorrow, where and how would you spend it, and who with?  
Sara Archer, Ross-on-Wye.

I'd like to be totally alone in my favourite part of Cumbria walking throughout the day, reading, listening to music and having a couple of glasses in the evening.

What advice would you give to aspiring broadcasters and writers: how has the business changed since you started?  
Julian Drucker, Northampton.

Broadcasters: Try for any on-air work you can get - student radio, cable TV. Anything that reaches an audience.

What single thing would you most like to change about cultural life in Britain?  
Isabel Party, Whitstable.

The seemingly inarable snobbery. Not elitism but snobbery.

What's your favourite television programme at the moment, excluding the 'South Bank Show'?  
Tony Gourley, Fulham.

Any drama by our best British writers - McGovern, Bennett, Bleasdale, Curtis/Elliot/Weldon, La Plante, Wood, Mellor... and *Frasier*.

What would you most like to see in the Millennium Dome?  
Jennifer Healy, East Dulwich.

A dome-sized replica of the human brain.

What will be your epitaph?  
John O'Byrne, Dublin.

Why did you only give us one shot at this?

Does giving a bit of money to the Labour Party salvage your conscience about being a wealthy socialist?  
Rory Ainsworth, Norfolk.

I have no conscience about being a wealthy socialist. I supported the Labour Party when I was broke and I still support it. I have earned my money in the competitive worlds of commercial TV and books. I must say I think the questioner here is a rather sad case. We should all be wealthy socialists.

What advice would you give to aspiring broadcasters and writers: how has the business changed since you started?  
Julian Drucker, Northampton.

Broadcasters: Try for any on-air work you can get - student radio, cable TV. Anything that reaches an audience.

Writers: Write until you think something is good enough to send off to an agent and publisher. Working on a good newspaper/magazine helps in many ways.

In broadcasting and publishing, there is much more pressure but there are still more opportunities. Broadcasting is expanding and will continue to do so. It is much more of a business than when I started.

As she scrapes away, I imagine her unlocking herself from a passionate embrace and saying, "I can't go on with this. Not until I've flossed."

I imagine her strapping an extra floss dispenser to her toothbrush whenever she goes on a trip, and then checking it the way other people check their passports and money. I imagine her telling her best friend about a break-in, and saying, "But the worst

## IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

### 12: THE DENTAL HYGIENIST BY MAUREEN FREELY

SHE IS not the first. But she doesn't seem to know this. "So did you have a nice break this summer?" she asks as she positions the lights. I tell her it was wonderful. "Oh, good." She flashes me an ultra-white smile. "I'll take that as meaning you found plenty of time to floss."

What game is she playing? Is she for real? This is what I hate about dental hygienists - they always are. Cravenly, I explain that I did take my floss on holiday with me, but even though I had it right next to my toothbrush, I kept forgetting.

"Are you sure it was right next to your toothbrush?" she asks, as she puts on her gloves. As I shrink to half my normal size, I manage to nod. "And you're sure it was your toothbrush." I tell her in the smallest voice I've had in years that I know how strange that sounds. "All I can do is keep crying."

As she takes out her tools, she says, "Well, the best thing is to put the floss right next to your toothbrush so that it's impossible to forget it." She plunges her hands in my mouth. She does not like what she sees. "Oh dear, oh dear. Such a lot of plaque."

"Do you understand what this means?" she asks. I do, but I don't want to hear it again. I can understand that, if you'd spent all those years at dental hygiene school, you'd end up having to take teeth very seriously. But why is it that they can't understand why the rest of us might forget to floss, because something more important might have come up at the crucial moment?

As she scrapes away, I imagine her unlocking herself from a passionate embrace and saying, "I can't go on with this. Not until I've flossed."

I imagine her strapping an extra floss dispenser to her toothbrush whenever she goes on a trip, and then checking it the way other people check their passports and money. I imagine her telling her best friend about a break-in, and saying, "But the worst

thing is that they took all of my floss."

I imagine her having a soft spot for Kenneth Starr, because at least he flosses. I can see her shaking her head as the TV cameras show the latest famine, war, or flood victims, and murmuring, "Just look at what all this has done to their gums."

I imagine her as a missionary, celebrating International Flossing Day with a classroom of shoeless children, pointing out the major trouble spots on a map labelled "Plaque Reserves of the World" - but despite all these cruel and extravagant thoughts, I am still surprised to look up and see her standing over me holding an electric toothbrush.

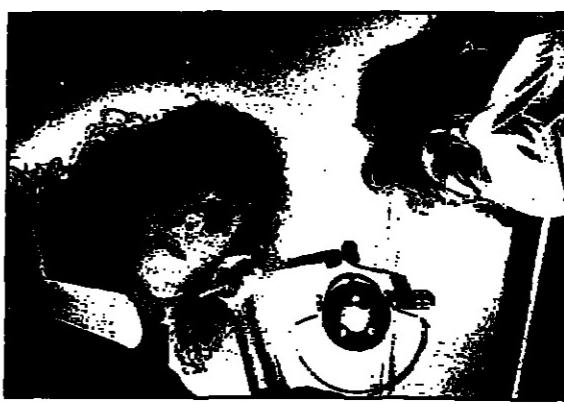
"Do you brush your teeth?" she asks now. "Have you ever considered charm school?" I feel like saying, "Do you know who you're talking to? May I remind you that I happen to be an adult?"

I've accepted the electric toothbrush, and I'm demonstrating my inferior brushing method, and letting her tell me how I can improve it. I don't hear a word of it. I am too busy hating her, and counting the seconds before I can leave this antiseptic room for ever.

It's only when I get back in my car that I notice how much better my teeth feel. I decide maybe it was worth it, and maybe I just hated this woman because she was right and I was wrong.

I actually remember to floss that night. The second night I forgot, but actually make a special trip back downstairs to correct the oversight. By the third night, I'm so into it that I throw an extra dispenser into my handbag, because you never know when you might need it.

I start recommending it to friends. When they smile at me in disbelief, I find myself checking the state of their gums. And thinking how pleased my own personal trainer will be the next time I go in for a check-up. This is what I hate most about plaque imperialists - the way they colonise you.



GERANT LEWIS

## Remember: nobody likes a smart alec



Julia Baxter Peter Lomax

Men who fail to impress may be using the wrong organ. By Suzanne Moore

ONCE AGAIN the men of Mensa, despite their supposed intelligence, have proved themselves neither very nor clever. One must be automatically suspicious of those who not only insist that size matters, but who flaunt the sum of their IQs in front of the rest of the population as a mark of superiority. At last a female member of the high IQ society has taken them to task and

resented a very unhealthy aspect of high intelligence."

Quite reasonably, Mrs Baxter believes that intelligence is not simply a matter of performing well in IQ tests, she would also like to promote emotional maturity and personal development. She wants to call her new organisation

not the Provisional wing of Mensa, or even Continuity Mensa, but Atticus.

Anyone who has done an IQ test knows that the more of these things you do the more you can learn how to do them. They may indicate a kind of mental agility but they are no guide to communication skills, creativity or ability to function in what Julia Baxter calls "the real world".

Even amongst psychologists they are a subject of intense debate, for they have long been used to prove that, on the whole, both women and black people are less intelligent than white men.

All of us have had the disorienting experience of meeting exceptionally clever people who are sorely lacking in fundamental social skills. When we read of another child prodigy who is being sent to Oxford to do a Maths degree at the age of 12, we tend to worry because we now understand that emotional development is intrinsic to the happiness and success of well-rounded individuals.

Indeed the shelves of bookshops are now full of literature on what we call "emotional intelligence" and how to nurture it in children. Too often emotional intelligence is seen as a weakness and as something to be avoided. If you are not in touch with your feelings you

are far more likely to be at their mercy and be overwhelmed by them - as Bill Clinton must now be realising.

The super brainy Robin Cook, admired by his colleagues for his ability to process large amounts of detailed facts and figures, may be quick-thinking, but his inability to manage the end of his marriage displayed poor emotional intelligence, which in the end was damaging to him. Mo Mowlam, on the other hand, has proved herself to be an incredibly dexterous player because of her communication and "people" skills.

Yet Mensa appears to be full

of intelligent people who would rather pass each other on the back for their big IQs rather

than try to create an organisation that fosters genuine intellectual curiosity.

To continue to adhere to a system of measuring intelligence that has at times been used to make all sorts of hideous eugenic arguments doesn't strike one as too clever to begin with.

Noel Burch, who was one of those behind the vote of no-confidence in Julia Baxter, denies accusations of misogyny. The organisation, he claims, is bound to be male-dominated because: "There are more men

in the top two per cent of intelligence than women, and this is reflected by the membership. The curve of intelligence shows there are more men at the two extreme ends and women occupy the middle ground."

If members of Mensa stopped congratulating themselves on their ability to pass grown-up versions of the 11 plus, they would see that what is at work in what Baxter calls "self-nationalisation" is an acute inability to face up to the modern world. The combination of information technology and the need for flexible and multi-skilled workforce has meant that other kinds of intelligence are not only valid but essential for the success of a modern economy.

None of this can be measured by an IQ test any more than it can be measured by one's skill at noughts and crosses. The future belongs to those who are adaptable and yet, by their refusal to adapt, some members of Mensa illustrate perfectly that a certain measure of intelligence is no use if it doesn't go hand in hand with an ability to read the writing on the wall.

The capacity to think ahead is a sign of both real intelligence and emotional maturity. On this score, Mensa is managing to look not frightenedly smart but dumb and dumber.

### CLASSIFIED

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 59 of the Law of Contracts Act, 1936, that a notice of the creation of a new company interests relating to the dissolution of the company, writers' statements of the amounts they claim to be due to them from the company and to be paid to it, to cover such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the satisfaction of the court, shall be filed with the Registrar of Companies on or before the 1st November, 1998, at the office of the Registrar of Companies, 44/100 on Friday 9th October 1998 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Section 59, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 59, subsection 2(d) of the said Act, Mr. Stephen J. McNamee, 100, 2nd Floor, 10th Avenue, New Delhi, India, is appointed to act as the Qualified Inspector. Practitioner who will furnish certificate with such information as may be required.

Date: 23rd day of September 1998

For Falcon Publishing Limited

CHARITY COMMISSION

Action on Elder Abuse 104/97 Scheme - varying  
Reference: LA/CFP/0461-C/04/04  
The Charity Commissioners have held an inquiry into the conduct of the scheme.  
A copy of the report will be available in Action on Elder Abuse, Ashton House, 100, 101 and 102, 3rd Floor, Ashton Lane, London SW1V 4QX or a copy can be obtained by post by sending a self-addressed envelope to the Secretary, Action on Elder Abuse, Ashton House, 100, 101 and 102, 3rd Floor, Ashton Lane, London SW1V 4QX.

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Antonio Berardi: hand-painted leather



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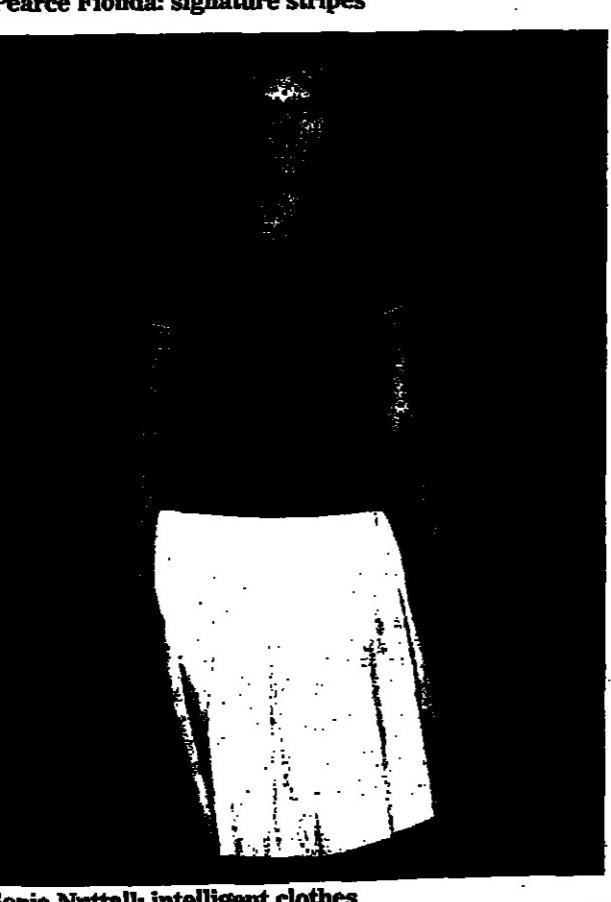
Clemente Ribeiro: cutwork dress and zebra boots



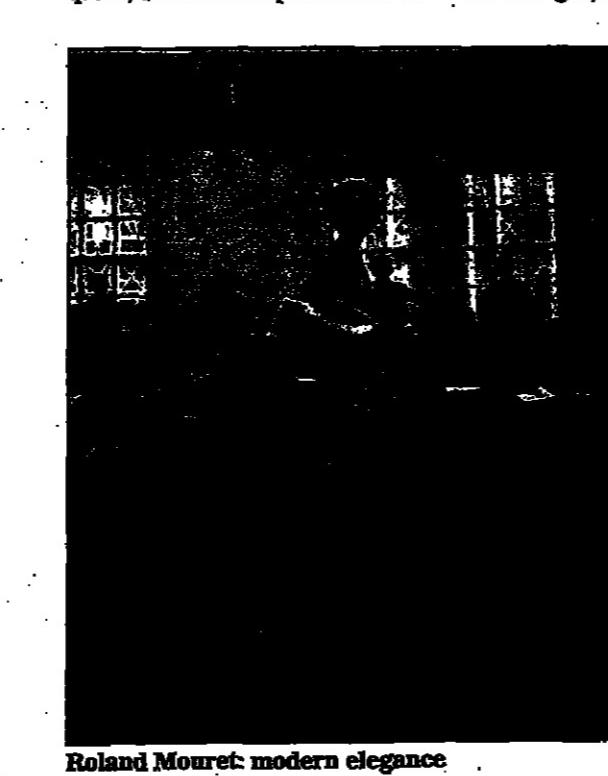
Alexander McQueen: arts and crafts tapestry



Pearce Fianda: signature stripes



Sonja Nutall: intelligent clothes



Roland Mouret: modern elegance



Owen Gaster: aerosol-paint suit



Mulligan: modern, graphic dressing



Matthew Williamson: delicate lace

## Juicy fruits

In this season of high camp, choosing a wardrobe for next summer requires a careful eye. By Tamsin Blanchard

**W**hat is a girl to wear next summer? Ask some of the designers who have been showing at London Fashion Week over the past five days and the answer may be a fur stole, dyed red and green, worn with shoes so high and spiky you would be incapacitated (Tristan Webster); an organza skirt and a pair of customised ice-skating boots (Boudica); a leather neck-brace (Alexander McQueen), a dress so short it reveals your sequined knickers (Matthew Williamson), a suffocating, crudely printed bustier so short you'd catch a chill around your nether regions and would need to be waxed from your toes to your belly-button (Sean McGowan), or a tinsel bikini (Julien Macdonald).

If you don't like those answers – and why should you? – you could look elsewhere. But many of the offerings on the catwalks over the past five days have been nothing more than camp twaddle – clothes made by self-indulgent designers who should know by now that no woman wants to look like a) a sci-fi superhero, b) a drag queen, c) a freak. Girl power does not

mean women want to wear ugly clothes. None that I know, anyway. But there were also clothes here for intelligent, fashion-conscious women to salivate over.

My own shopping list would include a modern and graphic dress in red by Mulligan. The designer Tracy Mulligan made a welcome comeback to the catwalks and her collection was clean, simple and easy to wear. My list

would also include a lemon yellow dress with an elasticated waist and ribbons at the shoulders, by Sonja Nutall. As Suzanne Clements of Clemente Ribeiro recently told me, the dress is the answer to most women's wardrobe problems. It pulls you together and skims over the lumps and bumps. And although lemon yellow may sound a peculiar colour, it looked bright, fresh and sunny. For evening wear, I would go along with Clemente Ribeiro's suggestion of light, lace dresses that looked feminine without being fussy. Not surprisingly, it is the women of Fashion Week who are providing the most wearable, most desirable clothes.

Hard-edged, aggressive fashion

has – it would appear – had its day. Even Alexander McQueen softened his shoulders and made flattering cocktail dresses in soft draped jersey, while Hussein Chalayan's simple, modern pieces, including jackets and skirts with geometric shaping, were a must-have.

From Paul Smith – London's answer to Ralph Lauren – there were sumptuous satin duster coats in baby pink and ice-blue satin shoes for evening, or simply jeans and a relaxed tailored jacket for everyday wear. Thankfully, there is an end in sight to the strangehold the colour grey has had over fashion for the past three seasons. Summer 1999 promises to be one of juicy fruit colours.

Finally, my list would have to include a pair of 24-carat gold shoes by Manolo Blahnik for Antonio Berardi – the newest alternative to jewellery and, at £10,000 a pair, best kept locked up in a jewellery box – to wear with a batik print chiffon summer dress, or a soft and lightweight floor-length, knitted angora dress. Practical? Not in the least, but fine and precious all the same.

London's Dance Umbrella Festival owes its success and scale to the tireless efforts of one woman. By John Percival

# Decades of dancing on a piece of paper

**A**s single sheet of A4 paper brought about the first Dance Umbrella festival 20 years ago, Val Bourne, who started the whole thing and still runs it, has the documents to this day. She remembers that Noel Goodwin of the Arts Council's dance panel came back from a visit to New York and mentioned an organisation there that provided the shelter of a joint season for companies which could not otherwise afford a showing. Why don't we try the same? people asked. Bourne, a former dancer working in the Council's dance department, was told to draw up a scheme. She did so, succinctly on that sheet of paper; then left the Arts Council to become dance officer for Greater London Arts.

To her surprise there came a phone call from her former boss, Jane Nicholas: "Well, the money's approved; you'd better do something about it." Luckily her new employers agreed that the project could fall within her remit.

The money, in fact, wasn't much - not enough, for instance, for any advertising except a single scrappy leaflet. But somehow, within about nine months, Britain's first festival of modern dance was up and running taking its name, Dance Umbrella, from its American inspiration (with permission - Bourne is always punctilious). And thanks to word of mouth, plus a boost from *Time Out* (whose dance editor, Jan Murray, became a member of Umbrella's board), audiences in the modest theatres were near capacity.

Looking at the grand scope of this year's Dance Umbrella, it is a shock to remember that in 1978 there was just enough cash for two weeks at Riverside Studios by British dance soloists and tiny groups. This was combined with a fortnight by four

American soloists which Murray was already booking for the Institute of Contemporary Arts. The Arts Council threw a tantrum about this; they wanted a purely domestic festival and insisted that not a penny of their support be spent on the foreigners, so the cost of presenting them had to be raised elsewhere.

Compare that with this year's festival, when the Barbican, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sadler's Wells, the Roundhouse, the Place and the ICA are all brought into play over a period of two full months, not to mention a week of site-specific performances in the new British Library, no less. And now the impressive British contribution is matched by dancers from Germany (the renowned Frankfurt Ballet's overdue British debut), Japan, Holland, Spain and even Russia, besides four American companies who are long-established Umbrella favourites.

Siobhan Davies, whose internationally admired company starts the season tomorrow with a new programme that has already been cheered on tour, was one of the hopeful young British dancers taking part in 1978.

She was there for the opening night when a long, long solo (52 minutes with no music) by the American Douglas Dunn drove some spectators to leave during the action and left others weary and bored.

One man even shouted as he walked out: "Bloody rubbish, you're insulting my intelligence," which prompted another voice in the audience to exhort the dancer: "Just carry on, I love it."

In fact the problem was, if anything, too much intelligence: an intellectual handling of highly varied movement into contrasted sequences that could seem dry. We had never seen anything remotely like it before - but that was the whole point.

Dance Umbrella includes a week of site-specific performances ranging from the South Bank Centre to the British Library

Dee Conway

of challenging work that the Umbrella presents.

When Davies moved on to form her own company in 1981, Dance Umbrella (by then a recurrent fixture) helped find rehearsal space, organised a tour for her, monitored her financial stability and helped her to understand what she wanted to do. And the opportunity for performances each year made all the difference to her and other developing British artists. "It meant that one had a commitment to a regular platform in an exciting arena, made it possible to throw a line out into the future. We had a future."

Davies is only one of many now admired and established British creators who owe much of their achievement to Val Bourne and the shelter of her Umbrella: Richard Alston, Jonathan Burrows, Michael Clark and Shobana Jeyasingh, for in-

stance, are among others taking part this time. But one reason why the British contingent had to grow strong was (as the funding bodies eventually realised) the constant challenge of the artists Bourne found overseas: amazing and previously unknown performers such as Bill T Jones and Arnie Zane (a partnership as close and rare as that of Fonteyn and Nureyev), and the Japanese-American duo Eiko & Koma who return this year; choreographers as unusual and provocative as Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Maguy Marin, Mark Morris, and many more.

It is not only London that has benefited. Even in 1978 the Arnolfini in Bristol joined in to take three of the Umbrella presentations, and for years Umbrella took several of its offerings outside the capital, until it found that this cost too much.

However, it started a management service and still organises many tours. It has also put on festivals in the North-West region, in Newcastle (which continues, but now under local management) and in Sheffield and, most recently, the Woking Dance Umbrella, which also continues on a biennial basis.

All this has been not so much a career as a living obsession for Val Bourne. Judge the extent of her commitment by the fact that in the early days she willingly turned out of her own home and stayed with a friend so that visiting dancers could use her flat, since there was no possibility of their being able to afford hotels.

In fact something similar can still happen, and did only the other day when confirmation was still awaited for funding one of the Umbrella's future projects.

Yet she always plays down her own part, and praises the colleagues who have worked with her. Dismissing the time she spends fighting for money, juggling venues and dates, holding the hands of her artists and racing all over Britain, Europe and America to find new talent, Bourne likens her own contribution to that of anyone who, seeing and enjoying something, wants to show it to all her friends. "I consider myself extremely privileged to be able to have such a good time", she told me. But Davies, like the rest of us, has a higher opinion:

"Our world is a more exciting, richer, kinder place because of her work. And to do it always with courtesy and thoughtfulness, as she does, is an extra."

Dance Umbrella begins on 1 October at venues across London

Dee Conway

## DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Barrie Rutter THE ROLE: Macbeth THE YEAR: 1965



WE PUT on Macbeth when I was in the upper sixth in December 1964 and then we went on tour with it to France and Germany around the Easter time of the following year.

I had got into acting because I had the biggest gob in the school - the drama teacher, Mr Siddle, suggested that I put it to good use. Obviously, there was no one going to play Macbeth but me.

It was an amazing tour, incredibly homespun. The school - Greatfield in Hull - set about raising funds and we made everything ourselves. Even the swords were forged in the metal workshop. Half the town seemed to get involved - it was a real entrepreneurial effort.

We got to our last stop, a school in Unna, near Dortmund, West Germany. For some reason, just before we went on, the guy playing Macduff said: "What if our swords should happen to break?" I said: "Come on, it's our last show, why would they break now?"

Well, the stage turned out to be brand new and slippery as hell. A warning went out for us all to keep our centre of gravity - have a low arse and wet knees, as they say. Then it came to the fight between

Macduff and me and two things happened simultaneously - his sword broke and I slipped and went reeling back against the scenery.

The next thing I heard was a whisper in my ear saying: "Die and I'll drag you off stage," and so he stabbed me with his knife.

INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISH

BITE:98

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# Getting away with murder

**Patricia Highsmith's thrillers inspired Hitchcock, Minghella and now Phyllis Nagy. Why? By David Benedict**

**D**eath does wonders for an author's career. That may sound horribly cynical, but in the case of Patricia Highsmith, it's true in every sense. Following her death in 1985, adaptors have been snapping up her 25 or so novels. Yet while she was alive, death or, more specifically, murder stalked her thrillingly obsessional prose which pulls off the astonishing trick of holding readers in a vice-like grip of apprehension and terror while simultaneously shattering all the rules of crime fiction.

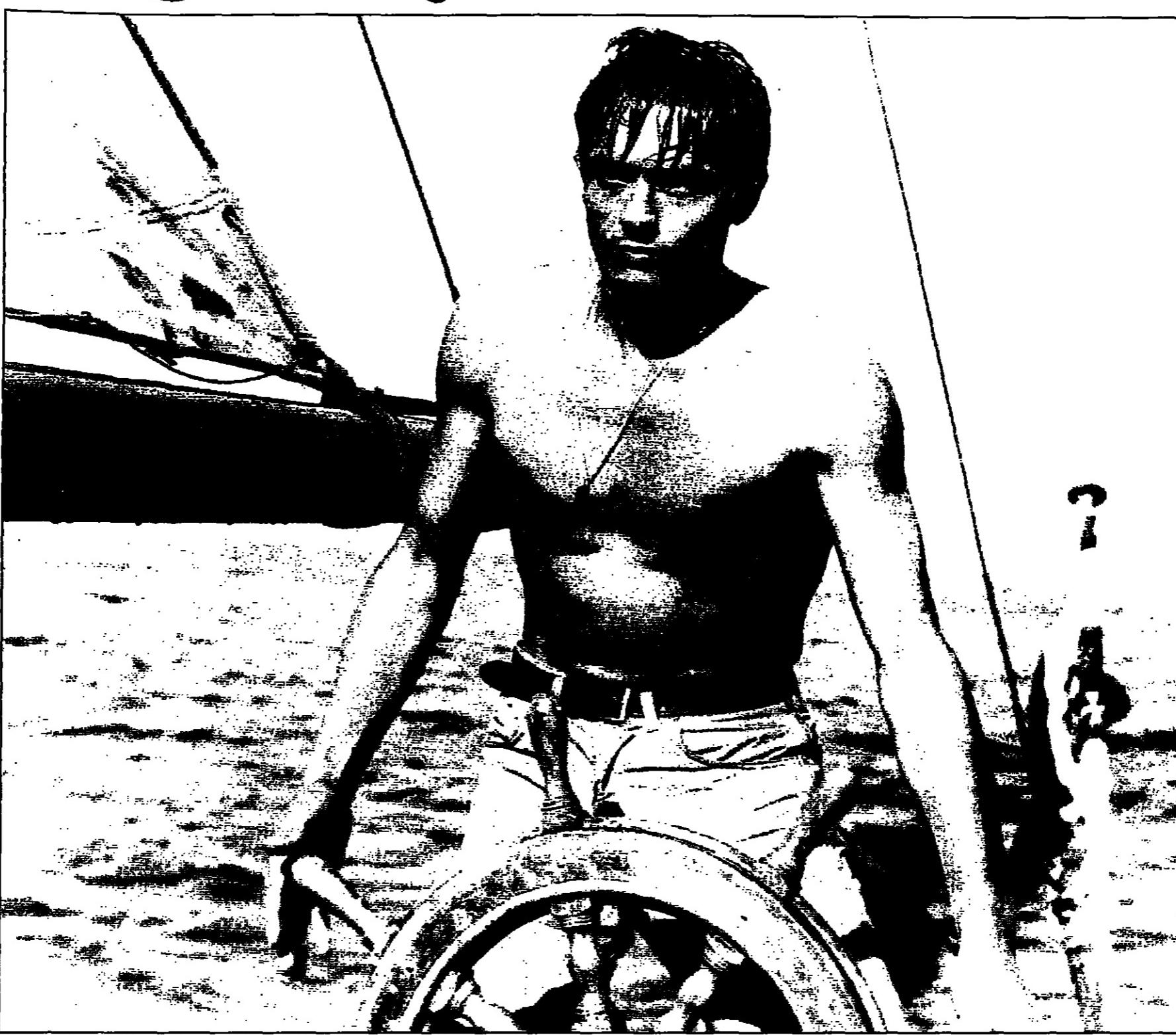
Graham Greene praised her unique vision of "a world claustrophobic and irrational which we enter each time with a sense of personal danger... It is not the world as we once believed we knew it, but it is frighteningly more real to us than the house next door". That goes a long way towards explaining her popularity with filmmakers. In the late Seventies Wim Wenders tried to buy the rights to all her future work. Notoriously canny, she refused, probably because she had little time for his 1977 film *The American Friend* which conflated her novels *Ripley Under Ground* and *Ripley's Game* and featured a wholly miscast Dennis Hopper. Not to mention the fact that she'd been stung before.

Alfred Hitchcock read her first novel *Strangers on a Train* upon its publication in 1946 and instructed his agent to buy the rights without mentioning his name. It cost him just \$7,500. He paid Raymond Chandler \$2,500 a week to adapt it - and then slung out virtually everything he'd written. The film resurrected his then sagging career and has remained near the top of the Hitchcock heap ever since. (A new print is being shown at the London Film Festival in November.) It further inspired two radio versions, a dreadful remake with the giveaway B-movie title *Once You Kiss A Stranger* and the Danny DeVito comedy-thriller *Throw Momma From The Train*.

Although Hitchcock's film did Highsmith no harm, it is a bastardisation of her book. The beautifully constructed theme of guilt chimed perfectly with Hitchcock's obsessions, but as she said to playwright Phyllis Nagy: "They didn't make the film of the book". She's right. In the original, two men trade murders to make them motiveless and undetectable and get away with it. In the film, only one character is murdered and the killer is caught. That turns the men into simple opposites, good and bad, thereby removing all the compelling moral complexity which is the key to Highsmith's writing.

And, until now, that has been the story with subsequent dramatisations including Chabrol's strangely vapid version of *The Cry of the Owl* which is about a peeping Tom, who makes himself known to the object of his desire, and reduces the book to an arid series of plot manoeuvres.

There are rumours of a forthcoming stage adaptation of *Strangers on a Train* and the attachment of gay director Sean Mathias to the project will probably



Alain Delon in Réne Clément's *Plein Soleil*: 'my perfect Ripley,' declared the author at the time, before revising her opinion

flesh out its underlying homoeroticism, a central feature in every one of the books. That unsettling tension is most clearly expressed through the character of Tom Ripley who appears in five Highsmith novels, beginning with the best, *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1955), which Anthony Minghella is now shooting with Matt Damon in the title role playing opposite Jude Law. Ripley will resurface via Rupert Everett in Mike Newell's movie *Ripley's Game*, but Nagy has got there first. She's now writing a film of *Found in the Street* for John Malkovich, has already delivered the script for Channel Four's film of Highsmith's lesbian novel *Carol* and tomorrow night her stage version of *The Talented Mr Ripley* - starring John Fadden - begins previewing in Watford.

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wordless journey by grilling her with three terse questions: Did Nagy like O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Sam Shepard? "We took the tour in silence and had a guided tour of the crematorium and were invited to put our hands in the still warm oven. We were treated to the gigantic blender full of human

plot. "You could tell the basic Ripley story in 60 pages: a man goes to Italy to bring back a friend, winds up involved in murder and we wait to see if he gets away with it. The rest is all about guilt, its absence and its effects." She acknowledges the narrative devices which propel the reader forward but believes it's the

broke box-office records for a foreign language film on its recent release. When it was made, Highsmith declared its star, Alain Delon, to be "my perfect Ripley", an opinion she revised when she saw another actor playing her seductive, sexually and morally ambiguous hero for the purposes of a South Bank Show profile.

The actor was Jonathan Kent, now better known as the joint artistic director of the Almeida. As a 12-year-old he'd seen *Plein Soleil* three times and then devoured the novels. Upon meeting Highsmith, he too became a friend. "She was a curious woman, in both senses. Extraordinarily contained. It was difficult to predict her reaction to anything."

He points out that Ripley draws on *The Ambassadors* by Henry James, a writer she loved. "He wrote about the corruption of the new world by the old; terrible things happen to Americans in Europe."

"Ripley mirrors its plot about the scion of a WASP family who goes to Europe with people being sent to get him back." However, he agrees with Nagy that the plotting is utterly secondary. "They have a flat narration of event. She absolutely gives you the driving sense of 'what happens next?' but her potency is that she doesn't get emotionally involved. The tone is uninflected. That's what makes it good dramatic material."

For Nagy, Highsmith's deceptively simple style masks a complexity which comes from a pure

interest in morality which doesn't take a position. "How does one murder? She is clearly struggling to come to terms with what that means. Her pathological repulsion towards ordinary human behaviour and an ambivalence about sexuality provides a clear, chilling path for the reader. All the characters have a great yearning and a curious attitude towards relationships: 'I want it... but don't give it to me, ever.' The moment they get it, it's so good."

Ripley's central preoccupation with impersonation might be seen as unstageable, but Nagy disagrees and focuses upon the internal element. "Basically, it works via Ripley talking to himself."

"Dramatisations have to pick up on these undramatised episodes. It's not about plot, it's about getting into the corners of the book which suggest opening out without inventing."

Tongues will continue to wag for quite a while, too, at the decision to tack on Duma Ndlovu's *The Ritual* - an amateur, if heartfelt, attempt at self-help for post-Apartheid South Africa. A double-bill suitable only for people with multiple personalities.

*The British Festival of Visual Theatre*, to 27 October at the Young Vic, BAC and South Bank Centre (0171-223 2223); *'Play/The Ritual'*, Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111) to 11 October



Patricia Highsmith took out a hip-flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink. It was like a challenge, so I took it ... and from that moment we were fast friends.'

bones... it was a pretty ghastly experience. We got outside and it was about 11am and she took out a hip flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink.' It was like a challenge, so I took it. Next she invited me for lunch, which consisted of nothing but Budweiser, and from that moment we were fast friends."

Nagy maintains that these literally unputdownable page-turners are remarkable for their absence of

imagery which holds the drama together and that provides the structure for her adaptation. "Ripley is dominated by one image of water after the next. Stringing them together, it's literally water which pulls him from New York to Venice." Réne Clément captured some of that in his partially successful film *Plein Soleil* (1960) which, despite skewing the central relationship into a heterosexual love-triangle,

banal prattling. The lack of humour in this chapter is given the author, the most mystifying aspect of the evening. You'll get some idea of the excitement level when I disclose that the first half ends with Alison about to make some crucial revelation to her mother and then breaking off because she's got to race to the library to return some books on which she'd otherwise be fined. It sends you out for your interval drink scarcely able to speak with the tension.

There are weird patches in the script, too, where you get the sense that it's the author talking rather than the character. Anti-smoking fascism comes in for quite a bashing, with Alison proffering the view that the more democracy we have, the less freedom we enjoy. She also launches into a riff about the tyranny of silence in public libraries. Silence? Public libraries? My local is a mecca for mobile-phone addicts. Oddly dated, "Mum" is not the word.

PAUL TAYLOR

## Best to keep mum with the dead

**THEATRE**  
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strong resemblance, she comes over as one of nature's Sonjas (*In Uncle Vanya* - plucky, plain, lovesick, and stoical). But I've also witnessed her in quite chilling form as Mary, that adolescent Iago in gingham in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*. These plays, saw her rising to the material in *Mum*, I'm afraid, it's a question of her rising above it, a fear she achieves briefly in the second half.

Alison is on stage the whole time, with just two interruptions from ghostly visitors (clumsily handled both in the writing and in Dan Crawford's production). First, she's confronted by the drunken, feckless father (David Sterne) she loathed, who reveals he was forced into a bleak, loveless marriage by her mother's pregnancy. Then, efficiently piling on the pain, in pops

young soldier Bob (David Maybrick), the love of her life who was killed before they could marry. After some initial memory problems, this revenant is soon obliterating Alison's precious belief that she was once special to someone with a



Charlotte Barker, daughter of Ronnie, puffs on behalf of freedom Sean Dempsey/PA

punishingly detailed recall of his other girlfriends. "Why did you have to tell me this?" she strictly asks. For no other reason than that Bob is a crude contrivance for upping the anguish.

At the start, I thought this was going to be the sort of play

where Mary would turn out to have murdered her beloved mother-cum-obsessive sounding board. Then I began to hope the mother would suddenly materialise in her chair and cordially throttle Alison for making the afterlife purgatory with all that

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Photo: David Morris

# The shock for the new

As students take up their college places, the realities of finance have to be faced up to. By John Andrew

Thousands of parents will receive a sharp financial jolt in the coming weeks. As the euphoria of their offspring's achievement in finding a university place begins to fade, the reality of funding a child through a degree course looms on the horizon.

Parents who studied in the Seventies cannot draw on their own experiences, for the way in which education is funded has already changed. Grants are far more generous, and although students are available to all, the sum amount of state funding a year's fees falls considerably short of the costs of taking a course.

There is no magic wand to make the shortfall vanish, but it is possible to relieve some of financial shocks before the term begins. This can be achieved by saving up a budget. This should only project. Hopefully, there is a meeting of minds - you will dictate the financial pressure on your daughter will experience whereas he or she will appreciate that financial help from has its limits.

Student's largest outlay is for accommodation. Because of regional differences in rents, the only way forward is for your son or daughter to telephone the university accommodation officer and find the typical cost of the variations available locally - living in hall, digs, or sharing a student.

While the type of accommodation is a matter of personal choice, availability is also a determining factor.

Having established the cost of accommodation, the rest is fairly straightforward. Tuition fees, local travel costs, laundry, towels, entertainment, insurance of sessions, and clothing are all factors to consider. Books, and possibly equipment, will also be needed. Reading lists will arrive before the start of term. However, it is necessary to purchase every listed.

Now, you should know the amount of grant, if any, that will be available to your Local Education Authority. Every student, regardless of parents' income, may also take advantage of a student loan. The amount depends on where they are



Today's students and their parents face an early lesson in budgeting for the costs of several years of further education

living during the term. London, £3,145; provinces, £2,735; and parental home at any location £2,325. Inevitably, the two sides of the equation will not balance. Parents are under no legal obligation to fund their offspring, but it is rare, although not unknown, for a contribution not to be forthcoming. The amount you contribute will obviously depend on your circumstances.

Moreover, the timing of the expenditure and your income may not coincide. Inevitably, the beginning of a term is the most expensive. Rent usually has to be paid in advance, books have to be purchased and fares paid. Most parents usually make a monthly contribution to their offspring's expenses to coincide with the receipt of their income. If it is not possible for you to make a larger sum available at the beginning of term, it makes sense for your son or daughter to bridge the gap by taking advantage of the interest-free overdraft facility included in all of the banks' student packages. Do remember that the overdraft has to be arranged before the account is overdrawn.

If, over the academic year, your son or daughter's funding falls

seriously short of the estimated expenditure, there are ways of resolving matters. The obvious one is to re-examine the budget to see if economies can be made. Increasingly, students are working during term, as well as in vacations, to supplement their income. Their earnings do not affect the level of their grant, or entitlement to a student loan. Working eight hours or so a week is unlikely to be detrimental to their studies.

You may decide to borrow funds. However, doing this so that your son or daughter does not have to do so, does not make sense, as it is far

better for them to take advantage of the cheap credit available to them by way of an overdraft or student loan. You can always assist with repayments later. However, if you do decide to borrow, it is less expensive to have some form of revolving loan facility, secured as a first or second mortgage on your home, than to run an overdraft.

Both parents and students are entering the unknown when the first third-former in the family starts a degree course. The last thing that they will want is a lecture on how to budget. However, it is prudent to introduce the subject of money management, not in a dictatorial way, but diplomatically. By working on their budget as a family project, future financial shocks and the resulting acrimony, can be avoided.

The Department for Education and Employment has published *Financial Support for Students - A Guide to Grants, Loans and Fees in Higher Education in 1998/99*. It includes a section on access funds for students in financial difficulties, and outlines additional financial help which may be available - for example, from local charities. Call 0800 731 9133

## THE COST OF BEING A STUDENT

The NUS estimates that the average student will be left with a shortfall between income from grants and loans and expenditure of £1,710 (£1,927 in London).

They base this on a first year student starting a three year course this academic year who is on full grant, liable for full tuition fees and studying for 38 weeks a year. Sources for the survey include the NUS accommodation cost survey for 1997/98 and average gas and electricity charges for four people sharing a three-bedroomed house. Entertainments includes newspapers, refreshments and the costs of going out.

	INCOME	
	London	Elsewhere
Grant	£1,225	£10
Loan	£3,145	£2,735
Total	£4,370	£3,545
Fees	£1,000	£1,000
	EXPENDITURE	
	Rent	£1,697
Fuel	£130	£130
Food/Sundries	£1,203	£1,011
Laundry	£97	£97
Insurance	£52	£55
Clothes	£201	£174
Travel	£70	£70
Books/Equipment	£443	£443
Leisure	£721	£578
Total	£6,297	£5,525
	SHORTFALL	
	£1,927	£1,710

## If you want to protect your business, think ahead

OFTEN THE work of a financial planner extends beyond advising simply on personal financial planning matters. Many clients run their own businesses. This means that as well as having the typical personal financial planning issues we all face, they also have to deal with their company's corporate financial planning. This is illustrated by the meeting I recently had with Tim.

Tim has been a client of ours for a number of years. He is in his late thirties, and owns and runs a small but very successful computer consultancy company, employing five people. Our previous meetings had focused on starting his retirement planning and building a portfolio of investments.

At a recent review meeting Tim explained that the opportunity had arisen for his company to purchase a similar local computer company. He had made preliminary inquiries with his bank, which had indicated that it would be willing to lend his company the funds required. To protect its position however, in addition to a personal guarantee, it would require a loan protection policy to be effected. Tim was not clear what the bank meant.

What the bank requires is a life assurance policy to be put in place on Tim's life. In the event of his premature death the funds would be available to repay the outstanding loan. This is often required when the lender wishes to strengthen its own security, or it is lending to a new or small company.

The benefits of having such an arrangement are that should Tim die before the loan is repaid, his company would have the funds available to clear the loan, helping it to continue trading. The bank will not be forced to call on Tim's personal guarantee of the loan to make up any shortfall - thereby enabling his estate to be left intact for the beneficiaries of his will.

Such policies are appropriate to all types of business

allowable on premiums, the proceeds are not taxable. Tim contacted me about a month after our meeting. His negotiations for the purchase of the second company had been successfully completed and the borrowings from the bank had been secured. The cover he required was therefore put into force. For the modest monthly premium of £14, the financial security of his company, as well as its increased workforce, are protected in the event of Tim's premature death. The bank has the security it requires in order to make the loan. Finally, Tim's estate is protected from having to make good any shortfall to the bank as a result of his personal guarantees on the loan.

James Bruce is senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, a fee-based firm of independent financial advisers. The address is Highwoods Square, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex CO4 4BB (01206 853888)

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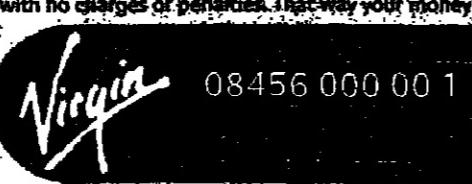


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WEDNESDAY REVIEW  
The Independent, 30 September 1998

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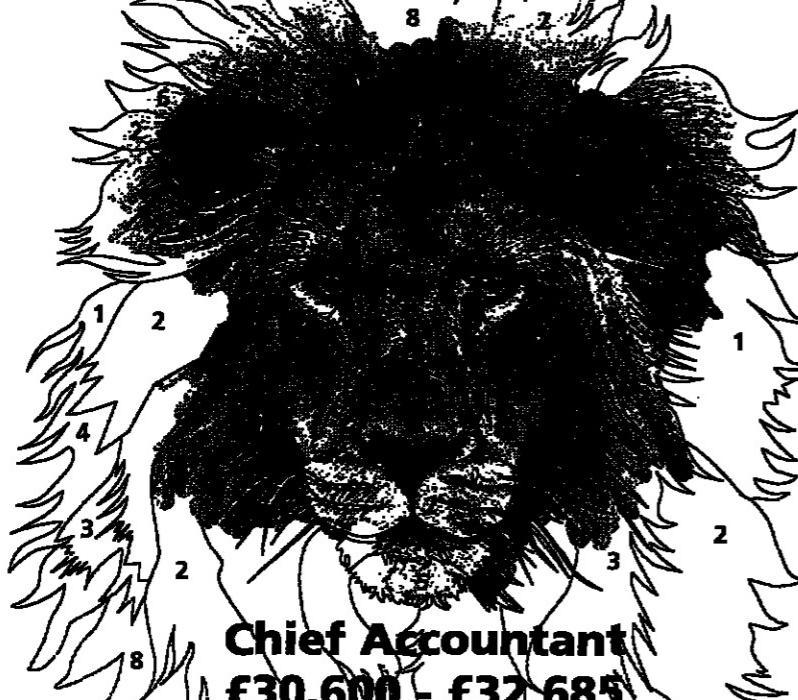
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Uniting our fragmented state bureaucracy is New Labour's 'big idea'. By Paul Gosling

## Pulling power is here

**B**efore the election, the Labour Party was thought to be looking for the "big idea" for its first term of office. While constitutional reforms are dominating the legislative programme, they probably do not capture the minds of voters on deprived estates in Hartlepool or Lambeth. Now, it seems, the big idea has emerged: "Joined-up government".

For too long, the argument goes, people have been pushed from the pillar to the post of the state system. No matter that details of a new birth have already been given to the Benefits Agency. They must still, separately, be given to the local council's housing, council tax benefits and housing benefits departments, plus the general practitioner and the Inland Revenue. The government that could connect the state's bureaucracy really might be onto something of a political winner.

We are beginning to see a raft of government initiatives aimed at precisely that outcome. There are a number of new bodies, such as the Social Exclusion Unit, the Performance Innovation Unit and the Cabinet Committee on Public Expenditure, that are directed at overcoming departmentalism. There is the appointment of Jack Cunningham as "Cabinet enforcer", with a remit to knock heads together to ensure that policies are delivered cross-departmentally. And there is the merger of the Cabinet Office and the Office of Public Service to ensure that policy formulation and delivery are overseen across government from one central point.

"There needs to be more emphasis on the corporate management of the civil service as a whole," said Tony Blair in a recent Parliamentary written answer, using words that could have - and probably did - come straight from the new Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson. "My objective," continued Blair, "is to meet the corporate objectives of the Government as a whole, rather than just the objectives of individual departments." A report by Sir Richard found departmentalism to be the weak element of government administration.

One of the results of this new approach has been a £150m fund launched last month by the Treasury, the Invest to Save Budget, "to promote joined-up government". The aim of the ISB is to ensure public services are delivered in a more coherent way and that different parts of government work closer together, said Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers. "By breaking down barriers between government departments, we will be able to provide members of the public with a far better service."

Public bodies can apply to the ISB to fund innovative projects that assist a more co-ordinated approach.



Jack Cunningham, the 'Cabinet enforcer' with a remit to knock heads together Rui Xavier

stury, the Invest to Save Budget, "to promote joined-up government".

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Good practice examples quoted have been the borough of Lewisham's one-stop shops that not only allow residents to enquire about any council service, but also ask the Benefits Agency about social

security problems, helping to integrate benefits provision. Brent borough has opened one-stop shops for all council queries, and is to create a call centre for telephone questions and an Internet site. While on the Internet, the self-employed can also complete a single electronic form that deals simultaneously with the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the Contributions Agency.

Other examples of inter-agency good practice have been highlighted by the Audit Commission in its new report, "Promising Beginnings". One of the points made by the Commission is the benefits for the consumer in county and district councils sharing offices in remaking two-tier areas, as well as the financial savings and improved joint working for

the authorities themselves.

The most junior tier of local government can have its own role. The parish council of Bramshott and Lipkings, in East Hampshire, operates a community office with grant support from the district and county councils. The office helps visitors to make contact with the right person in the larger authorities, and hosts surgeries conducted by council planners, the local housing association and Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Local government reorganisation was a spur to many county councils to improve relations with district authorities where two-tiered local government has been retained. This has led to joint working protocols being agreed in several areas.

Cambridgeshire has established

the "Further Improving the Three Tiers Group", bringing parish and town councils into the joint working loop. This has involved linking the county and some district councils' phone systems, which is also expected to cut phone bills. Website links have also been developed, bringing MPs, voluntary groups and councils together. Some officers have been seconded between county and district councils to increase co-operation.

**Best Value** - the Government-imposed scheme to raise standards across local authorities - is acting as an impetus to establish joint commissioning. In Sussex, the Tandridge, Brighton and Hove, and Wealden councils are to jointly procure IT systems. Baroness Dean, chair of the Housing Corporation, says that housing associations will be expected to jointly commission with local authorities in such matters as estate cleansing.

The CWOIL group of local authorities - Cambridge, Welwyn, Oxford, Ipswich and Lincoln - have come together to share good practice Best Value, creating internal benchmarking standards. This has also allowed their local auditors, on behalf of the Audit Commission, to come together to decide how best to audit Best Value.

The think-tank Demos says that joined-up government will remain a focal point of the Government. While Labour was in opposition, Demos had argued strongly for the need for greater "connectivity" of public services, and current government policy may owe a lot to the appointment of former Demos director Geoff Mulgan to the Downing Street policy unit.

Current Demos director, Perri G, believes that one of the future focal points may be the way executive agencies relate to the work of government departments, which has already led to the moving of the Contributions Agency from the remit of the Department of Social Security to its new, more logical connection with the Inland Revenue. The way some of the existing agencies work, argues Perri G, get in the way of joined-up government by supporting departmentalism.

And as far as New Labour is concerned, there are few sins greater than departmentalism.

## Bin-liners and champagne



THE TRADER

THERE'S A lot of rubbish talked about redundancy, especially by people who've never been on the receiving end. Take Norman's comment that firing me was as painful for him as for me. Funny, then, that I was the one snuffing it in a sudden handshoe as the security guard escorted me to personnel, the one feeling as if the world had suddenly stopped turning.

The man from personnel was

little better. His attempts at empathy made me feel ill. How on earth could he think he knew how I felt when I didn't even know? Any minute now, I thought, I'll wake up and everything will be fine again; that's how unreal it all seemed.

The man from personnel was

droming off on about conditions, but I couldn't concentrate. Suddenly the droming stopped.

"How much are you taking in of this?" the man asked. I told him. "So, not even in one ear and out the other?" he said.

"Well, it's all written down here anyway. Why don't I get you a cup of tea and leave you alone for a few minutes?" And he tiptoed off as if he were visiting a hospital.

I sat, numb and terribly, terribly rejected. All I could think was, how could they not want me? If Jane had been there with a crystal ball, she'd have pointed out that 53 other people from our bank would be feeling the same by the end of the day, but she wasn't, so there was nothing to disturb my wallow in self-pity.

Still, after a few minutes I dried my eyes, and the words on the paper slowly came into sharper focus. One month's pay instead of notice... six months' salary, tax free... services of an outplacement agency... could keep car for two months, or buy on favourable terms. So I wasn't going to starve, at least.

The man from personnel

came back with my tea and a plate of custard creams. "Here," he said, "this'll make you feel better." If only it were that simple, I mused, we'd save the

wall in self-pity.

It was 20 minutes until the security guard arrived with the contents of my desk in a black bin-liner, and another 20 while he went back for my Psion 5 Series which Norman had mistaken for company property.

By the time I reached Sash's

she was in fine cheer. "Excellent news," she cried, bugging me and pouring a vast glass of champagne. "No more horrid trading."

"Yes," I said, feeling suddenly defiant. "They don't want me, so why should I want them?" And we both got very drunk.

## Safety steps to ensure a sound business recovery

Responding to fast-changing market conditions is essential for good business. But where do owner-managed businesses start? By Tony Houghton

**COMMERCIAL LAWYER**  
IF YOU run an SME or Owner-Managed Business and you want to cope with potentially tough times ahead, you need to pay attention to the 3Ms - management, market and money.

If a recession strikes, and all the danger signs are present, firms must act now to ensure they are ready to respond to fast-changing market conditions. It is vital some of these steps are taken if firms want to be around to enjoy the recovery.

### Management

FOR MANY SMEs and owner-managed businesses, family involvement can lead to a lack of democracy or a business where ineffective family members hold down jobs which are not necessary or could be done

better by others. Family involvement, if not carefully watched, can lead to an inflexible management team that is insufficiently skilled to effectively steer the company through difficult times.

Directors should ask themselves if the voices of younger, motivated managers are penetrating the ears of a self-opinionated and autocratic chairman? They should also consider if there is a strong finance person on the board, and will they stick to their guns during opposition from others?

### Market

THE SME's market position, relative to its competitors, is crucial. Companies that may need to review their strategies before the going

gets rough will have many attributes. They may have taken on a "big project" or an exceptionally large contract, for example, which, if it fails, has the potential to bring down the company.

Firms that have lost traditional export markets owing to high exchange rates may no longer be competitive in those markets when rates adjust downwards. Also, firms which have not adjusted to their European customers' requirements by, say, considering the use of the single European currency will be at a disadvantage. Sales-driven companies, where turnover is increasing, have to watch not just margins but the growth in their working capital requirement. When recession looms

and sales volumes fall, banks seek compensating reductions in facilities.

### Money

FOR MOST SMEs and owner-managed businesses, the management of cash as a scarce resource is probably the single most important issue in running a business. For all businesses, liquidity management must be competent, reliable and creative. Businesses that do not effectively address certain issues will be caught out. Assuming the management information system is effective, does management make proper use of it? Are cash implications deduced from the trading results explained to the non-accountant directors and are action plans developed?

Cashflow and budget forecasting is not a "once-a-year" activity. Companies should continually re-forecast and build in an analysis of the sensitivities of normal commercial hazards.

Also, can the company competently present its cash management plan to its bankers when dealing with its facility renewal? Has the company really understood and addressed the issues most likely to be of concern to its lenders? If they get this wrong, it is an uphill task to re-establish confidence the second time around.

### What's the solution?

SOME SMEs and owner-managed businesses fail in a recession because managers do not recognise or will not admit they need help from company outsiders. Egos are powerful and dangerous, yet the size of these businesses is such that many are unlikely to have the in-house skills and resources to do what is necessary to manage the change.

In developing strategic plans to face a potential recession, firms should look at reshaping their businesses. The markets for products and services will be carefully reviewed, as will the shape of direct labour costs and manufacturing processes. Action plans must be drawn up to implement any necessary changes.

Companies also should look hard at asset management, cash management, a cost-reduction pro-

gramme and merger and acquisition opportunities.

The message we want to send is that professional advice now could help your business thrive while others go under. It's always better to call a doctor than an undertaker.

**Tony Houghton**, an experienced insolvency specialist, is head of insolvency at top-10 accountancy firm Kinsons Impey. The firm has launched a scheme - the Business Improvement Club - to help small and medium-sized businesses by providing managers with a forum to exchange ideas on general business issues and to provide practical information to help with the day-to-day running of firms.

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# Mum is the word

## I WORK FOR

SHAILU AND PRITI VYAS WORK FOR THEIR MOTHER, BHARTI VYAS, HOLISTIC BEAUTY THERAPIST

**Shailu Vyasa:** I intended to study pharmacy when I finished school but 15 years ago, whilst helping out Mum and Dad at the salon, I realised that I wanted to work with them permanently. What really spurred me on was seeing a client with bad skin problems being transformed through her therapy treatment from a hunched up person to someone with confidence who could hold her head up high.

I thought that Mum and Dad would disapprove of my decision because it would mean giving up my pharmacy plans and there's an emphasis on study within our Indian culture. But when they saw how much I enjoyed the work they allowed me to stay.

As well as taking a beauty school diploma I had to learn how to co-ordinate the schedules of our 15 staff and administrate the salon. It's very important that we trust the staff because we have so many high profile clients, like Belinda Carlisle, Cherie Blair and Cher, who obviously don't want the world to know what treatments they are receiving.

I think people are often scared to work for their mum because they anticipate that they will get bossed around, which in itself creates barriers. The solution is to communicate properly from the start. We have a basic rule that work is for work and home for home life. Sometimes we stray over the boundaries but generally if we have a disagreement at work we leave it here at the end of the day. We work like a team. Sure, Mum's at the forefront but her success is our success.

**It's not all Little House on the Prairie harmony. We do have arguments and occasionally cry or scream at each other. But my dad, who manages the accounts, is a great arbitrator. He's never resented Mum's success and often says "my daughters are just as good as any son".**

**Bharti Vyasa:** I was 11 when Mum launched her business. She had a fallopian pregnancy and wasn't allowed to lift heavy things so she decided to get involved in beauty as a hobby and the business grew from there. I've always been her guinea pig. I remember when she was learning ear piercing and pierced about ten holes into my ear - I looked like a right little punk.



Bharti Vyasa and daughters Shailu and Priti Vyasa make business a family affair

Kolpesh Lathigra

I trained as a hypnotherapist but found it too gloomy. I also had journalistic ambitions but when my family asked me to join the business 10 years ago, it made far more sense to devote my time to promoting my own family rather than working all hours for a stranger. Each of us draws on our own strengths to build the business which means that we have positivity coming from all angles.

I act as Mum's Girl Friday, working through her diary, administering the supply of our products to the right stores and organising her PR. I called her Mum at a recent press meeting and someone told me that it sounded most unprofessional. I explained that our salon workers and even some of our clients call her Mum

because they like the familiarity. I felt very protective over her when the press discovered that she was Cherie Blair's therapist and started knocking on our door. It was rather frightening because they were trying to take pictures of my children as well.

I enjoy working for Mum because I respect her both as a person and a professional. She doesn't put on a salon persona and her clients appreciate that. She's worked so hard to keep the family together that even if the business was to fail we would always have each other. When we were children and the family lived in a one-bedroom flat and Mum was working a 12-hour day, she always had time to massage our faces with

Vaseline to keep them soft whilst singing us to sleep. We all have different views and sometimes we shout at each other but we never blame one another because we know that we would only be failing ourselves.

I live over the road from Mum and Shailu lives five minutes away and we meet up every Sunday so we must get well together.

A lot of people have asked me: "But you are working in the background whilst your mum gets all the credit, doesn't that bother you?" But I don't feel that way at all. In fact, by pushing her forward I push myself because we are Bharti Vyasa and Bharti Vyasa is us.

INTERVIEWS BY KATIE SAMPSON

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## Travel troubles

SOMEONE GOES under a train at Kennington, and you can see from everyone's faces that the first thought that's come to their minds is not, "Oh, poor them", but "Damn!". It's the first word that comes to my mind, followed by the uncharitable thought that suicides always happen at points where they will cause maximum disruption for the maximum percentage of the population.

And it's always during rush-hour. At least, it's the evening rush-hour this time. I was once stuck in a packed train in a tunnel for 45 minutes. It was so packed that it wasn't even possible to move enough to shrug off my winter overcoat. It was like being trapped in a tin of polar bears. Tonight it's six o'clock, and all I have to do is get across London in time to get to bed.

It takes a couple of seconds for anyone to translate the Aramaic that rattles over the speakers, then a collective groan rises from the crowd. "Tchuh!" says the girl next to me. "Why do they always do this when I'm in a hurry?" "Ur!" says the suited gent beside her. "So selfish." I grunt, haul my enormous bag (Of course, today was the day when I impulse-purchased a decent dictionary) to my shoulder, and make for the escalators.

This is, of course, also the day when I've also decided to break in my new fake-Gucci loafers. I've had them off under the desk for most of the day, but there are still two tender spots on the knuckles of my big toes. As we come into the fading daylight, the air fills with the beep-beep-beep of

"Dunno, I didn't stay to watch. He certainly wasn't moving."

Five buses go past, people hanging from the poles, and the conductors trying to prise their fingers free and kick them off. The queue only goes down as people get up and start walking towards town. I look at my watch, seven o'clock, look at my shoes.

A cab goes past and someone hails it. "Anyone going to Chelsea?" she cries. I jump in. It's like the Blitz: five strangers wondering whether a shared taxi is like a lift, in which case we mustn't talk. Eventually: "Third time this week," says the girl who hailed the cab, and everyone bursts into conversation. "Can't believe it..." "Stuck in a tunnel for an hour and a half..." "My boss went under a train after our Christmas party. Lost an arm..." "Why do you think they never do themselves in at suburban stations..."

"Ah, well," says the girl who hailed the cab. "I should be home for 7.30 anyway." "I'm getting a takeaway and going straight to bed," says someone called Dawn. Just north of Covent Garden, the traffic grinds to a halt. By quarter past eight, we've moved maybe 100 yards and the meter has almost hit £20.

We're run out of conversation, and are sitting there, clutching our bags and gazing out of the window.

The driver pushes his window back. "Sorry, ladies," he says. "They've just been on the radio. Apparently, there's someone under a bus at Shaftesbury Avenue. You might as well all get out and walk."

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**ILFORD**  
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ♦ Gants Hill DR 11pm. 1.10pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.50am, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 1.20pm, 4pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm The X-Files 5.25pm, 8.05pm

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Lethal Weapon 4 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Saving Private Ryan 2.10pm, 7.20pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 8.20pm The X-Files 5.20pm, 8.10pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ♦ Highgate Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Titanic 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham BabyMother 5.45pm, 7.35pm, 9.25pm Eve's Bayou 6.40pm He Got Game 8.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Saving Private Ryan 5.20pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm The X-Files 4.20pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Lethal Weapon 4 4.55pm, 7.55pm Saving Private Ryan 7.10pm There's Something About Mary 5.10pm, 8.10pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870 9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge, BR: Putney Lethal Weapon 4 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4.25pm, 4.5pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR/E: Richmond Lethal Weapon 4 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.10pm, 4.50pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

**ODEON STUDIO** (0181-315 4218) BR/E: Richmond Cube 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm The Land Girls 1.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 2.25pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 2.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-5551313) BR: Sidcup Lethal Weapon 4 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4pm, 7.30pm

**ISLE OF DOGS**  
THE SPACE ARTS CENTRE (0171-515 2453) DR: Mudchute Un Air De Familie 8pm

**STAPLES CORNER**

**VIRGIN** (0870-9070717) BR: Cricketwood Lethal Weapon 4 12.20pm, 5pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

**ODEON** (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill Deep Rising 4 12.20pm, 5pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

**NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE** (0181-555 3366) BR/E: Stratford East BabyMother 9.20am, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.55pm There's Something About Mary 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.55pm, 8.30pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/E: Stratford East BabyMother 9.20am, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.55pm There's Something About Mary 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.55pm, 8.30pm

**BRISTOL**  
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) He: Game 10 (18) 5.30pm Dangerous Liaisons (15) 6.05pm Majorettes In Space: Five Gay Tales From France (18) 8.15pm Juliette Binoche 10 (15) 8.45pm

**NEWARK**  
DUKE OF YORKS (0173-602503) A Streetcar Named Desire (NC) 2pm, 6.30pm The Last Days Of Deceit (15) 4.15pm, 8.45pm

**BRIGHTON**  
CHARTERS STUDIOS Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) Chasing Amy (15) 1.30pm, 7pm The Castle (15) 5pm Gadjio Dillo (15) 5pm

**IPSWICH**  
DUKE OF YORKS (0173-602503) A Streetcar Named Desire (NC) 2pm, 6.30pm The Last Days Of Deceit (15) 4.15pm, 8.45pm

**CARDFIFF**  
CHARTERS ARTS CENTRE (0122-399666) Hanzi-BI (18) 3.30pm, 8pm Twilight Of The Ice Nymphs (NC) 7.30pm

**OXFORD**  
OXFORD PICTURE HOUSE 51/2526 He Got Game (19) 1.30pm, 8pm Out West & The Music Box (12) 3pm Hamlet (PG) 4.30pm, 8.15pm There's Something About Mary 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

**SUTTON**  
UCI 6 (090-888990) BR: Sutton Dr Doltile 2.30pm, 2.15pm, 6.30pm The Horse Whisperer 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 4.50pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

**TUNBRIDGE**  
ODEON (01895-813139) ♦ Tunbridge Lethal Weapon 4 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

**WALTHAMSTOW**  
ABC (0870-9020424) ♦ Walhamstow Central Lethal Weapon 4 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 2.30pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm

**WALTON**  
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Lethal Weapon 4 11.50am, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 1.20pm, 4pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

**THEATRE**  
WEST END

## THEATRE

TICKET availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

• **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunit St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-856 1443) ♦ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £22-£23, 135 mins.

• **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical about the love between a singer and a deformed composer. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) cc 344 4444

♦ Picc Crc, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, £10-£25, 150 mins.

• **ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS** Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ♦ Picc Crc, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7pm, £19.50, 27.50, 130 mins.

• **ANNA KARENINA** Stage adaptation of Tolstoy's classic portrayal of passion from Staged Experience. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ♦ Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 10 Oct, £25-£35, 180 mins.

• **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer. Criterion, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-741 2311) ♦ Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £17.50, 165 mins.

• **RENT** Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern New York. Savoy Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-539 5299) ♦ Holborn, Fri-Cr Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7pm, £20-£25, 150 mins.

• **ART** Stacy Keach, David Duke, George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/6) cc 867 1111) ♦ Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 1pm, £15.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

• **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** English family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-494 5065) ♦ Tott Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7pm, £10-£25, 150 mins.

• **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/6) cc 867 1111) ♦ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7pm, £10-£25, 150 mins.

• **COTTESLOE** Harold Bloom and the Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, ends 3 Oct, 180 mins.

• **LYTTELTON**: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmarm in this new adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel Spark. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends Dec 15, 135 mins.

• **MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE** The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams' tale of a faded Southern belle and her aspirations for her children. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 8pm, ends 10 Oct, £6.50-£25, 150 mins.

• **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Greville Street, W1 (0171-741 4922) ♦ Leic Sq/Picc Crc, Mon-Sat 8pm, [5] 8pm, £12.50-£35, 150 mins.

• **SNUFF** Musical biopic tracing the brief life of Holly Hobby. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ♦ Charing X, Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 8pm, mats 8.30pm, £11.50, 160 mins.

• **THE BLUE ROOM** Nicole Kidman stars in David Fincher's adaptation of Schindler's List. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5] 8pm, £12.50-£35, 150 mins.

• **THE CLOUTIER** The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmarm in this new adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel Spark. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends Dec 15, 135 mins.

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## WEDNESDAY RADIO

### RADIO 1

97.9-99.8MHz FM  
6.30 Zoo Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Clive Warren. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 The Brezzabuzz. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

### RADIO 2

88.9-92.4MHz FM  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 Gloria Estefan's Sounds of Miami. 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2. 10.30 Nicky Home. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 Alex Lester.

### RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz FM  
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week. Gershwin. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

### 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 In Tune. 8.00 Performance on 3. Live from the Barbican Hall, London. English Chamber Orchestra, directed by Pinhas Zukerman (violin), Mozart: Symphony No 41 in C (Jupiter). See Pick of the Day.

8.40 A Sound Read. Ian Hewett returns with the series that reviews the latest books on music. This month, writer and professor of English Lisa Jardine and lecturer and broadcaster David Hockvale discuss the revealing memoirs of Janacek's wife Zdenka, & who who of opera characters and a new book by Lydia Goehr which asks where music and politics meet. 9.00 Concert, part 2. Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D. 9.55 Postscript. Twenty-five years after W H Auden's death, poets and critics reassess his poetry and make a personal selection of readings (3/5).

10.35 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces Russian music, including Borodin's rarely heard piano quintet. Borodin was typical of many 19th-

### PICK OF THE DAY

YOU MAY have heard of George Dodd on the news recently, as the man who designed a device that can diagnose disease by smelling the patient's breath. Scientists Ask Questions (8pm R4) casts him in another role - that of primary school teacher - where he has been conducting an experiment in teaching complex chemistry to 10-year-olds. Is his scheme the shape of education

to come? Bernard Cribbins (right) performs a monologue by Christopher Reason about old age and broken romance in The Final Furlong (2.15pm R4). Pinchas Zukerman is conductor and soloist in the Jupiter Symphony and Beethoven's Violin Concerto, for his own 50th birthday concert, broadcast live in Performance on 3 (8pm R3). ROBERT HANKS



century Russian composers in having another full-time job, so that his composing was a spare-time activity. The performers are Nelson Evans and the Praezi Quartet.

10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright hears first-night reactions from Liverpool, where Jonathan Harvey's new play "Guiding Star" tackles the legacy of the Hillsborough disaster and its impact on one family torn apart by survivors' guilt. He also talks to poet Michael Longley, whose new selection draws on more than thirty years of writing poetry of love, nature, war and remembrance and is infused with experience of his life in Northern Ireland. elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Constant Lambert. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

### RADIO 4

92.4-94.5MHz FM

6.00 Today.

9.00 Midweek.

9.45 White Cargo.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Crimescapes. (R)

11.30 Up the Garden Path. (R)

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Inspiration. (R)

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: The Final Furlong. See Pick of the Day.

3.00 Gardeners' Question Time.

3.30 Pongs Perdus: Five Reflections on Small.

3.45 Pongs Perdus.

4.00 NEWS: All in the Mind.

4.30 Thinking Allowed - the Larger Map.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad Remembered. (R)

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.35 Front Row. As Edward Heath prepares to publish his autobiography, Mark Lawson investigates the mysterious art of the political memoir.

7.45 The Jury. By Matthew Solon.

As the court case continues, juror Megan Evans is about to drive into her own past. Will it affect the way she sees things now? (3/5).

8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze.

Michael Buerk chairs an investigation of the moral questions behind the week's news. Witnesses face cross-examination from Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook.

8.45 Divided We Stand. The third instalment of Robert Robinson's four-part idiosyncratic history of the century.

9.00 NEWS: Scientists Ask Questions. In a tiny village school in the remote Scottish Highlands, research scientist Professor George Dodd is teaching ten-year-olds molecular science, usually only studied at university level. With the aid of smells, songs and the internet, the children of Buinalib are being encouraged to understand the world through a knowledge of molecules. See Pick of the Day.

9.30 Midweek. Lively conversation with Libby Purves and guests.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Father's Glory. Childhood memories of Provence by Marcel Pagnol, author of 'Jean de Florette' and 'Manon des Sources'. Abridged by Nevile Teller, read by Anton Lesser. My father, city-bred and cooped up in schools all his life, had never killed a bird? (3/5).

11.00 Hearing with Hegley. Poet John Hegley entertains, welding a microphone and a book of verse. With Nigel Piper and the Popticians.

11.35 The Goldfish Bowl.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Crocodile Soup.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 World Service.

1.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

### RADIO 4 LIVE

(98.1MHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

### RADIO 5 LIVE

(99.9MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Rusco and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night.

Coverage of the second round of the European Champions League - in Group E Arsenal entertain Panathinaikos, and in Group D Manchester United are away to Bayern Munich. News too of the night's domestic action. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Little John. Comment on the latest talking points in football by calling Richard Littlejohn on 0500 909683.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Brian Hayes. Including at 10.00 a news briefing at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. Between 11.30 and 12.00 Nick Robinson hosts a special edition of 'Any Sporting Questions?' from the Labour Party conference in Blackpool. His all-star panel includes Steve Cram, sports minister Tony Banks and Sharon Davies.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

### CLASSIC FM

10.00-10.59MHz FM

6.00 Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast.

8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests.

2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick.

6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

### VIRGIN RADIO

(102.7, 107.2-109.5MHz MW)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams.

1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Bobby Hairn/Jamie Scott (FM only from 6/5). 7.30 Harriet Scott. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Howard Pearce. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

### WORLD SERVICE

1.00 Newscast. 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newscast. 2.30 Omnibus. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian (Books). 4.04 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup. 4.45 The World Today (4.30-7.00/Insight (SW 5875kHz only)).

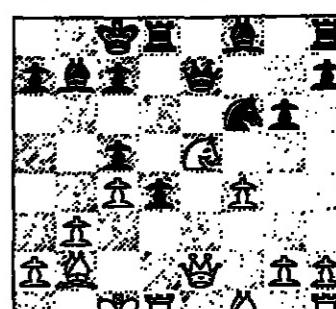
4.45 Off the Shelf - Ghost Stories (SW 5875kHz only). 5.35 - 6.30 Music Brief (SW 7235kHz only). 7.00 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN WITH BOB WADE

White: M Magomedov  
Black: J Isaev  
Tajikistan 1998, Scotch Game



1 e4 e5 17 g3 Bxh1  
2 Nf3 Nc6 18 Bh3+ Kb7  
3 d4 exd4 19 Rxd1 c6  
4 Nxd4 Nf6 20 Re1 Qe7  
5 Nxc6 bxc6 21 Bg2 Rd6  
6 e5 Qe7 22 Nd5 Nd7  
7 Qe2 Nd5 23 b4 cb4  
8 c4 Bb6 24 c5 Rds5  
9 b3 g6 25 Bxd5 cxd5  
10 f4 f5 26 Kb1 Bg7  
11 exf5 Nxf5 27 Qe6 Rdb8  
12 Bb2 0-0 28 Qxd5+ Kc8  
13 Nd2 d5 29 Re7 Bxc5  
14 0-0-0 d4 30 Rxb7 Bxc5  
15 Nf3 c5 31 Qe8+ Qb8  
16 Ne5 Bg7 32 Qc6+ 1-0  
See diagram

jspeelman@compuserve.com

## BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

ON THEIR way to the World Senior Pairs title in Lille, Irving Gordon and the 89-year-old Boris Schapiro undoubtedly enjoyed some luck, but their final winning margin showed that it was not all necessary. True, this deal helped...

East opened Two Hearts, showing opening values with hearts and a minor. West responded Three Clubs (some sort of relay?) and, in a (not unsurprisingly) undiscussed situation, Gordon doubled. East bid Three Diamonds; West jumped to Four Hearts; North doubled again.

With an unattractive choice of bids, Boris tried Four Spades with the South cards and West decided to double. He was right in a sense - Four Spades doubled would have failed by a substantial margin - but Boris now retreated to Five Clubs and West doubled again.

West led a heart and, as he displayed dummy, Irving remarked that he did not altogether object to his partners first "suit".

You can guess what happened - dummy ruffed and a trump went to West's ace. Convinced that South had four spades - after all, he had bid the suit - West exited passively with a spade, reasoning that if

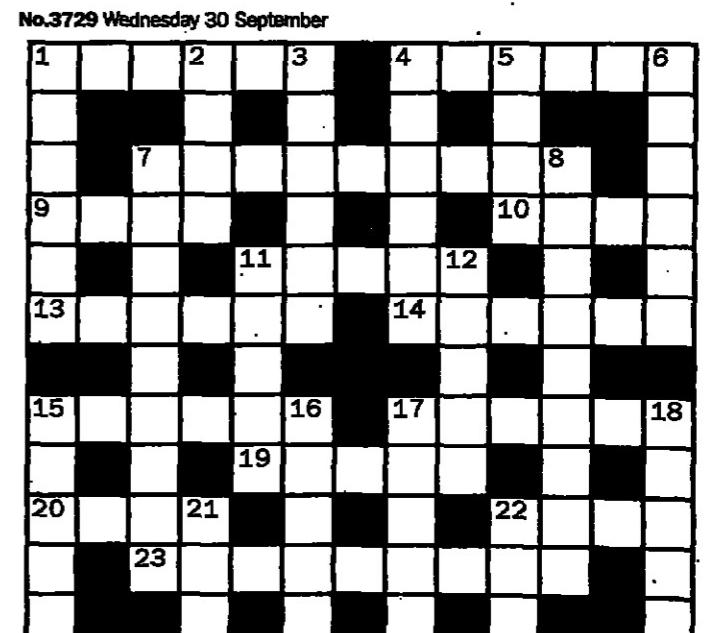
South held  $\spades\ Jx$  it would be necessary to wait for the two defensive tricks in the suit.

It did not work out like that, for declarer held only three spades and, after the missing trump had been drawn, one of South's losing diamonds went away on the spades.

However, even if Five Clubs had failed, it would still have scored well for East-West would have made 11 tricks in their heart contract.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3729 Wednesday 30 September



### ACROSS

1 Like this clue (6)

4 Adheres (6)

7 Make up (9)

9 Prison (4)

10 Rod on which wheels turn (4)

11 Malicious (5)

13 Rectangular (6)

14 Come out (6)

15 Legal (6)

17 Calligrapher (6)

19 Roman river (5)

20 Look after (4)

21 Sicilian volcano (4)

23 Study of family trees (9)

24 Funkey (6)

25 Set of prayer beads (6)

### DOWN

1 Slow movement (6)

2 Gemstone (4)

# WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

## BBC1

## BBC2

## ITV Carlton

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

**NICHOLAS LEZARD**

TELEVISION REVIEW



THOSE of you who don't live in London will have missed first Edition: London's Stunfest (Carlton). This is a pity, as you would have loved it - reassuringly several hundred handbill sites around the capital. "Neal Ashey, Midsomer or nowhere," as one of them was described. Not if you live in Aylesbury. I'd have thought.

Like the dustcoat that squatted a few pints of sherry through some car driver's open window ("In theory," snarled John Mears, a Hartley refuse collector, "nothing should shoot out of it"), the programme has been flooded with unpleasant facts.

London recycled 6-10 per cent of its rubbish, Americans 30 per cent, Germans 35 per cent, and "leading Canadians" distributed 60-70 per cent.

Best of all were the portraits of Londoners, especially those stuck behind dustbins. "Watch

cameras," said one grumped woman. "They wouldn't know what rubbish you tell em to take a bit of rubbish, you have to cross their path wiv silver!" Sean Smith produced a dispensable bin liner. It should be sent on bin-biodegradable cassette to your thinking of moving to the Big Smoke.

Turner: Sex and War (BBC2) had in its sights the hypocrisy of the MOD, not an easy target to miss. Evans being a cellulite homosexual (the military offence these days, but there was none of that rubbish)

spouted about the pernicious influence of homosexuals on

"militia", for getting that

Scots the most successful

military nation in history,

virtually made homosexual mandatory (you would fight more easily with your lover by yourself). As one gay ex-

serviceman put it, "We fought

the Nazis because they were

condoning people for what

they were, not what they'd

done. Those people wanted to

serve their country, and that's

not an ignoble wish. Perhaps it

is these days.

Thomas Sturridge is owing

me an armchair.

John Prescott shares his thoughts (S) (20/20).

11.00 **Labour Party Conference**. Deputy Prime Minister

Walter (1527/55), 1.30 Regional News and

Weather (1527/55), 1.45 Neighbours (S) (20/20).

2.05 **Brakey's** (S) (28/29/50), 2.25 **Quirky** (Y) (20/20/50).

2.45 **Techmo** (S) (20/20/50), 9.25 **Techno** (S) and Pictures (20/20/50), 10.00 **Teletubbies** (S) (915/52), 10.45 **Calls** (Eves) (915/52).

11.20 **Number One** (Acute Scotland) (S) (915/52).

The Geography Programme (312/4/50), 11.40 **Science in Action** (312/4/50), 12.00 **Teaching Today** (S) (4/4/50).

12.30 **Working Lunch** (83/52), 1.00 **Joshua Jones** (R) (573/48/5), 1.10 **Sophie Grigson's Herbs** (S) (80/82/80), 1.15 **The Countrywide Hour** (54/56/79), 2.15 **News**, Local News: Weather (1528/50/83/4), 2.20 **Conference Live** (S) (917/56/5), 2.45 **Crucial Vision** (R) (56/58/50), 3.45 **Microsay** (S) (73/52/50), 4.00 **Weather** (S) (80/84/54/7), 5.10 **Blue Peter** (S) (72/57/54).

5.10 **Working Lunch** (83/52), 1.00 **Joshua Jones** (R) (573/48/5), 1.10 **Sophie Grigson's Herbs** (S) (80/82/80), 1.15 **The Countrywide Hour** (54/56/79), 2.15 **News**, Local News: Weather (1528/50/83/4), 2.20 **Conference Live** (S) (917/56/5), 2.45 **Crucial Vision** (R) (56/58/50), 3.45 **Microsay** (S) (73/52/50), 4.00 **Change That** (S) (615/55/5), 4.25 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (52/57/7), 4.35 **Eastern** (R) (56/58/50), 5.25 **Totally in the Day** (S) (20/20/50).

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